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Gulf must improve Iran ties

GCC should be strengthened: Sheikh Khalifa

By Ahmed Al Jarrah
Editor-in-chief, Arab Times

THE importance of strengthening relations with the GCC and of improving relations with Iran was stressed by Bahrain's Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman.

He told me in an interview that the new decade would witness the emergence of a third world power, a unified Western Europe, as embodied by the Common Market, and many European countries were trying to join it.

Sheikh Khalifa said it was, therefore, necessary to strengthen the GCC states through an "interlinkage of interests" to create a "parallel power" that would enable the GCC to move forward with "vital confidence."

Speaking of the GCC summit in Muscat, the prime minister said it would have a "special flavour" because of the full awareness of GCC

leaders with regard to the advent of the new decade and the need to prepare to confront the new stage.

He also said it was important to realise what the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd, meant when he stressed the need for further endeavour to link the interests of the region.

The prime minister alluded to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, adding that it was time to leave "no illusionary barriers" between the citizens of the GCC states, and called for the free movement, not only of citizens, but also of other legal residents.

The situation in the East Bloc had shown the ideologies of the Gulf states had been "wisely conceived" and provided prosperity and stability.

Turning to relations with Iran, Bahrain's prime minister said Iran had been making

"friendly gestures" and the GCC had been reciprocating.

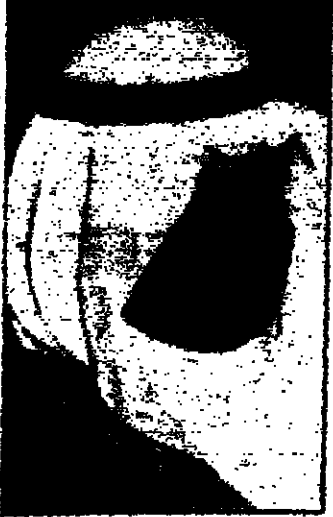
He said the Gulf states must have relations with Iran but it was important to feel comfortable towards any co-operation, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others should be stressed.

Speaking of Bahrain, he said it had recently hosted many economic conferences and these indicated an improving economy.

He pointed out that Bahrain had wanted to facilitate freedom of travel to Bahrain but delayed doing so till the security situation became more stable.

He added that Bahrain's main concern was to achieve more development and provide services to its people at reasonable prices.

(For full text, see Page 10)



Sheikh Khalifa's relations

Iran calls for broader ties in Gulf

NICOSIA, Nov 19, (Reuters): Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called today for expanded political and economic relations with Gulf Arab states, the national news agency IRNA said.

"Stability and security in the region will be possible only through mutual co-operation," IRNA quoted Rafsanjani as telling Iran's ambassadors to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait at a meeting in Tehran.

He urged Gulf states not to adopt policies which could create a "dark age" in the improving trend of their relations with Iran.

Baabda to be stormed

Aoun faces Syrian might

DOHA, Nov 19, (Agencies): Syrian new military reinforcements began entering Lebanon since Friday night in preparation for storming Baabda presidential palace to enable new Lebanese President Rene Muawad to assume office, the Qatari News Agency said yesterday.

The Qatari News Agency added in a Nicosia-dated dispatch that the Syrian reinforcements were including "commando" units and were poised to "storm Baabda palace to enable Muawad to exercise the state's sovereignty on East Beirut."

The agency, attributing the dispatch to "informed" sources in the Cypriot capital, did not give further details.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Hussein Ali Hussein did not rule out the use of military means to confront the opposition of Gen. Michel Aoun to the presidential elections, the formation of the new government and Taif agreement.

He added in a statement to daily "Al Imbad," published in Abu Dhabi today, that "we will use all possible means to make the Lebanese President reach the Baabda palace in East Beirut," dominated by Aoun's forces.

He said that "we will not be lenient with any person or party that wants to obstruct the salvation process in Lebanon."

Aoun is head of the provisional military government, and he bans the president-elect Muawad from taking over the Baabda presidential palace.

The United States pledged "steadfast support" for Muawad today as American Ambassador John McCarthy handed his credentials to the newly elected head of state amid joyous parades in Syrian-policed north Lebanon.

Speaking in Bradford, northern Ireland, the centre of the Rushdie protest, he said: "There ought to be some protection as is afforded for people who are subject to racist or sexist discrimination."

"There should be some areas we can explore to stop people's religious feelings being outraged."

The archbishop said in a speech in the northern city last night that some progress had been made with talks between different religious groups in the country.

But he said the extension of the blasphemy laws was "proving to be more difficult than was originally thought."

Cory plan set for defeat

ZAMBOANGA, Nov 19, (Agencies): President Corason Aquino's autonomy plan for the southern Philippines faced defeat at the polls today, shattering government hopes of ending years of conflict there.

A huge would mark the first poll setback for the Aquino government since it came to power in 1986 and dim chances of settling a Muslim separatist revolt that has divided the country's southern Mindanao island for nearly two decades.

A power line breakdown blacked out this city of 400,000 people tonight while counting of referendum results was going on and officials suspended the count until tomorrow.

Both Muslims and Christians rejected the plan.

Early unofficial results showed a massive "No" vote to autonomy in eight provinces with only two provinces voting "Yes." Results were not immediately available in the remaining three of the 13 provinces where the plebiscite was held.

"On the whole, the "No" votes were overwhelming the "Yes" votes," election commissioner Haydee Yorac said.

Muslim separatists claimed a victory for their cause. "This strengthens our stand. We are victorious," said Zain Jaki, spokesman for the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which had called for a boycott of the polls.

The MNLF charged Manila's autonomy plan was a trick to undercut its demand for genuine Muslim self-rule in the area.

Voting precincts in many Muslim areas of the battle-scarred region 800 km (500 miles) south of Manila looked deserted as many Muslims heeded the MNLF boycott appeal.

In Christian-dominated areas, the plan was thrown out by wide margins, according to unofficial returns. Election officials reported turnout as low as 40 to 45 per cent in many places.

Manila hoped the plebiscite for partial autonomy in a region of nine million Christians and Muslims would end decades of bloodshed in Mindanao, where the MNLF-led separatist war killed more than 50,000 people in the 1970s.

The Muslims, who number about five million in a Christian nation of 60 million, regard Mindanao as their ancestral home.

(Continued on Page 2)



Joking time

Virgin Atlantic chairman Richard Branson (left) and co-pilot Per Lindstrand joke around by their hot-air balloon during an interval of the safety training for their attempt to cross the Pacific Ocean by hot-air balloon at the launch site in Miyakonojo, southern Japan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Airlift of Egyptian workers stopped

CAIRO, Nov 19, (Agencies): Iraq halted an airlift of disgruntled and frightened workers home to Egypt today telling the Egyptian government the stampede had sharply slowed.

But hundreds of Egyptians queued at ticket offices in Baghdad. At least a million Egyptian work in Iraq.

A Reuters correspondent in Baghdad reported however that hundreds of Egyptian workers were still queuing for tickets home.

Up to 14 extra flights a day had been laid on to cope with an exodus sparked partly by suffer foreign exchange controls.

Many Egyptians returned in

Ramadan had reached a partial solution.

"I think this rush to come back home will stop," Sedki said.

"Extra flights on Iraqi military planes stopped as of this morning. We were told this morning that the problem of Egyptians crowding Baghdad airport no longer exists."

Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister, Taha Yassin Ramadan, told students at Cairo University the problems that sparked the exodus were temporary and "we are prepared to sacrifice everything to protect this relationship between two peoples."

Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki told reporters he and

(Continued on Page 2)



Homage to Indira

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, with a handful of rose petals, pauses for a moment of reflection at the memorial to his mother Indira Gandhi in New Delhi. Rajiv took a break from the hectic election campaign to mark the birthday of Indira, who was assassinated five years ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajiv foe missing

BJP lodges complaint

LUCKNOW, Nov 19, (Reuters): One of 40 candidates running against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in this week's elections in India is missing, intelligence sources said today.

Under India's election laws, polling in a constituency is postponed if a candidate dies.

The missing man, independent candidate Bhagwati Prasad, 40, had not been seen for weeks in Amethi, the seat Rajiv is seeking to hold in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the sources said.

"Teams of policemen are looking for Bhagwati Prasad in the state and outside. But we have found no trace of him so far," one source said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has taken up issue with the Election Commission and sought its intervention in locating the missing candidate.

In a letter to the commission, BJP general secretary Krishan Lal Sharma expressed the apprehension that this could be the handwork of the ruling Congress (I).

"We are afraid that anything untoward could happen to Bhagwati Prasad and the Congress (I) could even blackmail him for their election gains", the BJP leader said.

'Wee' bit of a row

Willie boy was here

LONDON, Nov 19, (Reuters): The Prince and Princess of Wales today deplored as intrusive and irresponsible a newspaper's publication of photographs showing their eldest son Prince William answering a call of nature.

Tabloid Sunday paper the People published two pictures on its front page of seven-year-old William relieving himself in bushes under the headline "The Royal Wee" with the caption: "Willie's sly pee in park."

Inside were pictures of his five-year-old brother Prince Harry involved in a scuffle at school under the caption "his royal cry-ness."

The photographs of the princes — second and third in line to the throne after their father — appeared to have been taken in gardens near London's Weatherby School where they are pupils.

Buckingham Palace, in a statement on behalf of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, said: "The Prince and Princess of Wales have regularly asked editors to respect the privacy of Prince William and Prince Harry at school as they want the two young children to have as normal a school life as possible."

In addition, the attentions of paparazzi photographers have obvious security implications. We therefore deplore publication of the seven photographs of Prince William and Prince Harry in today's People newspaper as intrusive and irresponsible."

Upbeat Gandhi will fall: 'Today'

NEW DELHI, Nov 19, (Agencies): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party is in serious trouble and could lose more than half its seats at this week's national elections, according to an opinion poll released today.

After quizzing 10,700 eligible voters, the respected news magazine India Today said the Congress Party still could emerge as the largest single party in Parliament but would need the support either of Hindu fundamentalists or communists to form the next government.

"If the general elections had been held between Nov 12 and 16 when the opinion poll was conducted, the strength of the Congress in the Lok Sabha would have been slashed by more than half — from 415 seats to about 195 — well below the 265 needed for a majority," the magazine said.

But Rajiv, dismissed opinion polls suggesting Congress would be beaten by a surprisingly united opposition.

"The polls don't vote. Voters vote," he told one of his rare news conferences. "I think we are doing very well."

Asked if that meant Congress was going to hold on to its overall majority in the 545-seat Parliament, he replied: "Without a doubt."

Speaking to reporters before leaving to campaign in northern India, Rajiv insisted only his government could combat terrorism and religious violence tearing at the country's fragile unity.

"Who can keep this country together? Only we had the guts to fight terrorism, the principle and the will to fight communalism," Rajiv told a news conference called to announce a Rs 5-billion (\$295-million) programme to help women in poor rural villages.

The programme, he said, was a tribute to his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, on the 72nd anniversary of her birth. Indira was assassinated on Oct 31, 1984, by two Sikh bodyguards.

Rajiv's landslide victory in 1984 was attributed to the sympathy wave generated by his mother's slaying.

The prime minister said people in rural India, where 80 per cent of the country's 880 million people live, are more concerned about which side can provide stability.

"The people have tremendous doubts about their capacity to provide stability to the country," Rajiv said, referring to the National Front, a newly energised coalition of five parties that

(Continued on Page 7)

DAY BY DAY

IT has now become necessary to reduce interest rates on the Kuwaiti dinar because interest rates on major world currencies have gone down.

High interest rates result in more bank deposits instead of putting the money into economic activities, since the interest rates give better returns on investment than economic activities.

In addition, high interest rates are a heavy burden on the consumer, whom the state wants to protect.

It should be realised that economic reforms should include reducing interest rates after a big increase.

Zahed Matar

Weather

RATHER cold weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Slight to moderate.
High water: 1.20 am, 6.22 pm
Low water: 11.20 am, 11.30 pm
Sunrise: 6.16 am
Sunset: 4.51 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 22°C
Abu Dhabi: 21°C
Dubai: 22°C
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 13°C
Abu Dhabi: 17°C
Dubai: 16°C
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 20°C
Abu Dhabi: 19°C
Dubai: 20°C
Minimum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 15°C
Abu Dhabi: 18°C
Dubai: 17°C
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 75 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 68 per cent
Dubai: 70 per cent

CIA drug deal played crucial role in bombing of Pan Am airline, CBS says

NEW YORK, Nov 19, (Reuters): A CIA deal with a heroin smuggler may have played a crucial part in events leading up to the 1988 bombing of a US airliner, a US television network said.

The bomb was smuggled onto Pan Am Flight 103 in a suitcase that was supposed to contain heroin, Ohio Democratic Congressman James Traficant said on the CBS weekly current affairs programme "Saturday Night With Connie Chung."

He said he got his information from a confidential report by investigators hired by Pan Am's insurance underwriter.

CBS correspondent Chung and Traficant said the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had allowed a man with terrorist connections to transport drugs to the United States in exchange for information about American hostages held in Lebanon.

Traficant said he had been in Frankfurt airport in West Germany had been primed to substitute a suitcase containing drugs for a normal suitcase aboard the Pan Am flight which later blew up over Lockerbie, in Scotland, killing 270 people.

But Ahmed Jibril, named in press reports as having been hired by Iranian officials to plant a

bomb on a US airliner, knew of the drug run and was able to switch the suitcase for one containing the bomb.

"Jibril knew of the drug run... and he was able to orchestrate a situation where, instead of the drugs, he put the bomb on 103," Traficant said.

"And he was able to get a bomb on it because that thing was insulated by the CIA for a drug run. And that's the bottom line."

Jibril is leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, which has denied any connection to the Lockerbie crash.

According to CBS, West German intelligence, aware of the drug running scheme, had placed the baggage for the Pan Am flight under video surveillance and reported to the CIA that the smuggler was not using his usual suitcase.

Traficant said the investigators found out that the West Germans had notified the CIA. "They notified Washington and were told 'disregard'," he said.

CBS said Traficant planned to meet Pan Am officials on Monday to question them about the report.

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Church hold-up

Filipino contractor Armando Ducat (right) holding on to two grenades around Manila parish priest Rom Gonzales' neck while his companion Romeo Andaya (partly hidden at left) pokes a pistol at assistant priest Rodolfo Tulivas inside a Catholic church in Manila. Ducat accused Father Gonzales of refusing to pay him 800,000 pesos (\$37,000) for church renovation. The two surrendered after six hours of negotiations. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nearly 7 million in 1988

Soviet abortions

MOSCOW, Nov 19, (Reuters): For every 100 births in the Soviet Union there are 106 abortions, a medical newspaper said today. It said Soviet abortions in 1988 totalled nearly seven million.

"These monstrous statistics are difficult to believe," Meditsinskaya Gazeta said. It added that they were not complete because they did not include illegal abortions performed outside hospitals.

The figures on abortions released by the Health Ministry showed the Soviet Union's abortion rate was higher than that of all developed countries in the world, Meditsinskaya Gazeta said.

The report was one of several recent Soviet press articles to focus on the abortion rate in the country, where a shortage of condoms and other birth control devices makes abortion the leading method of birth control.

Imelda will not run for president

MANILA, Nov 19, (Reuters): Imelda Marcos says she has no plans to contest the presidency of the Philippines and she has "no claim to the throne" formerly held by her husband Ferdinand.

"I have no intention of running for the presidency," she said in an interview published in a Manila newspaper today. Some old Marcos allies have suggested she could be a tough opponent for President Corason Aquino in the 1992 poll. Imelda said she was not going to be a "shameless fool and sit on a throne that does not belong to me" but added that destiny was the deciding factor for any presidency.

She called for a ballot to let Filipinos decide whether her husband, who died in Honolulu in September, should be buried in his homeland.

Aquino, narrowly backed by the Supreme Court, has barred the return of Marcos' remains for security reasons. His body has been temporarily interred in Hawaii where he and his wife lived since he was overthrown in 1986.

In the interview, Imelda defended her husband as a "great democrat, a good humanist, a libertarian."

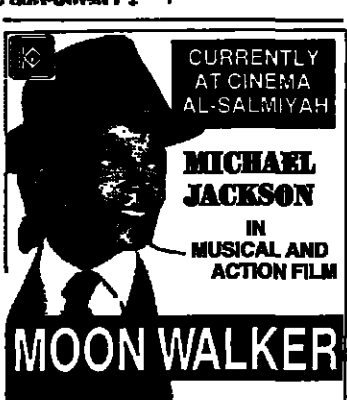
She dismissed accusations that her desire to go back to the Philippines is fuelled by fear of imprisonment when her trial for fraud in New York begins in March 1990.

Aids vaccine may have human tests

LONDON, Nov 19, (Reuters): A new vaccine against Aids developed in Britain might be tested on human volunteers next year, a British scientist said today.

"Optimism about the possibility of having a vaccine has increased immensely over the past year," Dr Geoffrey Schild, director of the Medical Research Council's Aids programme, told the National Press Association news agency.

He said there were plans to give the potential vaccine to a few dozen healthy volunteers. After vaccination, the blood would be checked for the presence of antibodies which should offer protection if a person was subsequently exposed to the Aids virus.



MOON WALKER

Cory plan set for defeat

(Continued from Page 1)

With migrations, Christians have taken control of politics, business and social life.

Divided for decades, Mindanao's Christians and Muslims found brief unity at the polls and inflicted a setback on Aquino, who campaigned for a voter turnout.

MNLF rebels asserted their presence in their rural strongholds. In eight villages of Sultan Kudarat, rebels seized ballot boxes and painted them with slogans: "Boycott the plebiscite."

No polling took place in 44 precincts on Jolo island as schoolteachers assigned to supervise voting did not show up, fearing rebel reprisals, officials said.

Rebels set up road blocks in the area and roamed the streets brandishing Armalite rifles and anti-tank mortars, television news clips showed.

An independent watchdog group said some officials in Sultan Kudarat tried to pressure people into voting "Yes," threatening them loss of their jobs if they didn't.

In Isabela town, visited by Aquino last Thursday, 5,108 voted "No" against 536 who voted "yes."

Radio reports quoting local sources said the balloting in Cotabato city and in five other towns West of Zamboanga also showed negative votes leading by a wide margin.

Manila television stations said support for autonomy was ahead in three largely-Muslim provinces: Tawi-Tawi, Lanao Del Sur and Sulu.

Aquino urged southern voters to take part in the referendum but did not advise them whether to vote for or against the plan.

"The voting had gone through and there was no major disturbance that we experienced," said Maj. Hermogenes Esperon, spokesman of the southern command.

He reported clashes with communist guerrillas in three different places on Mindanao island, but said "that is normal here" and not connected to balloting.

Communist rebels are also opposed to the plan.

Samuel Misaleng, election registrar of Maguindanao, said MNLF rebels raided precincts in 10 villages in his province, forcing the commission on elections to suspend balloting in at least seven polling stations.

Elsewhere, the army reported a bomb was found early today in a school in Cotabato, 880 kilometres (550 miles) south of Manila. Police exploded the device away from the building, which was to be used as a polling station.

Late yesterday, another small device exploded in a waiting shed at the port of Cotabato but there were no injuries, according to city police chief Lt Col Carlos Trisla.

The military blamed the MNLF for the two bombs.

Military sources said MNLF rebels prevented election officials from bringing ballot boxes to precincts in Mainbang, a major rebel stronghold in the island province of Sulu, 960 kilometres (600 miles) south of Manila.

In Zamboanga, a largely Christian city 896 kilometres (560 miles) south of Manila, troops guarded polling stations and armed foot patrols were seen throughout the city.

On the eve of the balloting, the military reported clashes between troops and communist rebels and between rival Muslim factions in north Cotabato province.



Muslim women, in their traditional attire cast their ballots in the autonomy plebiscite in the Marawi City, Mindanao. (Reuters wirephoto)

Plebiscite for Mindanao semi-autonomy

Misuari holds key to peace

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines, Nov 19, (Reuters): A political science professor turned guerrilla leader may hold the key to peace in the southern Philippines.

Nur Misuari abandoned a quiet teaching job at the University of the Philippines to lead Muslims on the southern island of Mindanao in a bloody way of secession in the 1970s. He now lives in exile in Saudi Arabia.

Many believe his reaction to Sunday's plebiscite for semi-autonomy for 13 Mindanao provinces will be crucial in deciding the future of the mineral-rich area which has stagnated under mismanagement and exploitation.

He has warned of a new war unless the people of Mindanao reject the autonomy plan, which he sees as a trick to perpetuate rule by Manila.

"We know very well that the people of Mindanao are all opposed to the plebiscite and opposed to the (autonomy) act because to them (it) will perpetuate the cause of war in Mindanao," he declared in an interview broadcast on Philippine Radio during campaigning ahead of the poll.

Unless the autonomy plan was rejected "the last avenue to peace will be totally shut and there will be only war left to us," he said.

For two decades the chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a deeply religious man, has pressed for self-rule for the Muslim minority in Asia's only Roman Catholic country.

He has secured condemnation of the vote from the 45-nation Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO).

"The ICO urges the Philippines government to resume talks with the Moro National Liberation Front under the umbrella of the ICO to reach an acceptable settlement for southern Philippines Muslims," a statement said.

The MNLF has some 10,000 guerrillas, but the Philippine military believes their ammunition would last only for three days if fighting broke out.

Asian and Middle East diplomats say Misuari might try to translate ICO rejection of the plebiscite into financial help which could be used to buy weapons for the MNLF.

Alternatively, he might try to get ICO members to pressure Manila diplomatically.

"What option he takes, and how he reacts to Sunday's vote could determine the future of Mindanao," said one Manila-based Asian diplomat who has followed the conflict.

The campaign for self-determination sparked fierce fighting between Muslim guerrillas and government troops on Mindanao in which at least 50,000 people died. The war reached its peak in the early 1970s when government planes and helicopter gunships pounded Mindanao daily.

Fighting tapered off after the MNLF and the Manila government agreed to a ceasefire and signed an accord in the Libyan

capital of Tripoli in December 1976 to give semi-autonomy to all 13 Mindanao provinces.

Under Sunday's poll, each province is given a choice of being included in an autonomous region, but many Christian-dominated areas are expected to opt out.

After Marcos was toppled in February 1986, Misuari held talks with new President Corason Aquino, returning from exile to meet her on the remote southern island of Jolo.

Talks broke down in May 1987 because of disagreement over how much autonomy the region should get and the role the MNLF should play.

Standing five foot three inches (1.57 metres) and with a slight stoop, Misuari looks like the political science professor he once was, but the leader of the biggest Philippine Muslim guerrilla group is a different man.

Supporters say he has done more than any Filipino to further the cause of the "Bangsamoro," the Moro nation.

The Moros, Muslim Malay tribes of the southern Philippines, claim they have been robbed of land, authority and heritage in Mindanao, their traditional homeland.

Although rich in natural resources, Mindanao has remained poor because of central government neglect, exploitation by aggressive Christian settlers and the Muslims' own conservative political leaders.

'Lucky Buck's' luck runs out at last

OAKLAND, California, Nov 19, (AP): Buck Helm, the burly longshoreman who survived 90 hours in the rubble of a freeway flattened in last month's Bay Area earthquake, has died, hospital officials said.

Helm, who turned 58 Nov 10, died of respiratory failure at 7:30 pm last night at Kaiser Permanente Medical Centre, said Ronald Treleven, a hospital spokesman. He said repeated attempts to resuscitate Helm were unsuccessful.

Helm was pulled from a 1-1/4-mile (2-kilometre) collapsed section of Interstate 880, the Nimitz freeway, in Oakland four days after the 7.1-magnitude quake struck northern California on Oct 17.

His condition recently had improved slightly, Treleven

said. Helm had been taken off a kidney dialysis machine, and doctors had hoped they might soon be able to take him off a respirator that enabled him to breathe.

"We were very surprised. We were very saddened," Treleven said.

The quake killed 66 people, most of whom died in the Nimitz wreckage, and caused an estimated \$7 billion in damage.

The 5-foot-10, 220-pound Helm, affectionately dubbed "Lucky Buck" by local radio stations, was pulled from the most heavily damaged section of the collapsed freeway. Rescue workers had given up hope of finding any survivors there.

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WARM UP TIMES Winter Schedule Effective 29th October '89

FLIGHTS TO INDIA FROM KUWAIT

TO BOMBAY	TO TRIVANDRUM	TO MADRAS	TO DELHI	TO GOA
FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT
AI890 MON 1445 0415' AI310	AI858 FRI 0745 1520 AI310	AI851 MON 0815 1330 AI310	AI891 MON 1100 1330 AI310	AI850 MON 0830' AI310
AI852 MON 2245 0500' AI310		AI853 TUE 1945 2130 AI310		
AI854 WED 2245 0500' AI310		AI855 WED 1945 2130 AI310		
AI856 THU 2245 0500' AI310		AI857 THU 1945 2130 AI310		
AI858 FRI 2245 0500' AI310		AI859 FRI 0445 0630 AI310		
AI852 SUN 2245 0500' AI310		AI856 SUN 1945 2130 AI310		

FLIGHTS FROM INDIA TO KUWAIT

TO BOMBAY	TO TRIVANDRUM	TO MADRAS	TO DELHI	TO GOA
FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT	FLY NO DAY DEP ARR ACFT
AI891 MON 0815 1330 AI310	AI858 FRI 0745 1520 AI310	AI851 MON 0815 1330 AI310	AI891 MON 1100 1330 AI310	AI850 MON 0830' AI310
AI852 MON 2245 0500' AI310		AI853 TUE 1945 2130 AI310		
AI854 WED 2245 0500' AI310		AI855 WED 1945 2130 AI310		
AI856 THU 2245 0500' AI310		AI857 THU 1945 2130 AI310		
AI858 FRI 2245 0500' AI310		AI859 FRI 0445 0630 AI310		
AI852 SUN 2245 0500' AI310		AI856 SUN 1945 2130 AI310		

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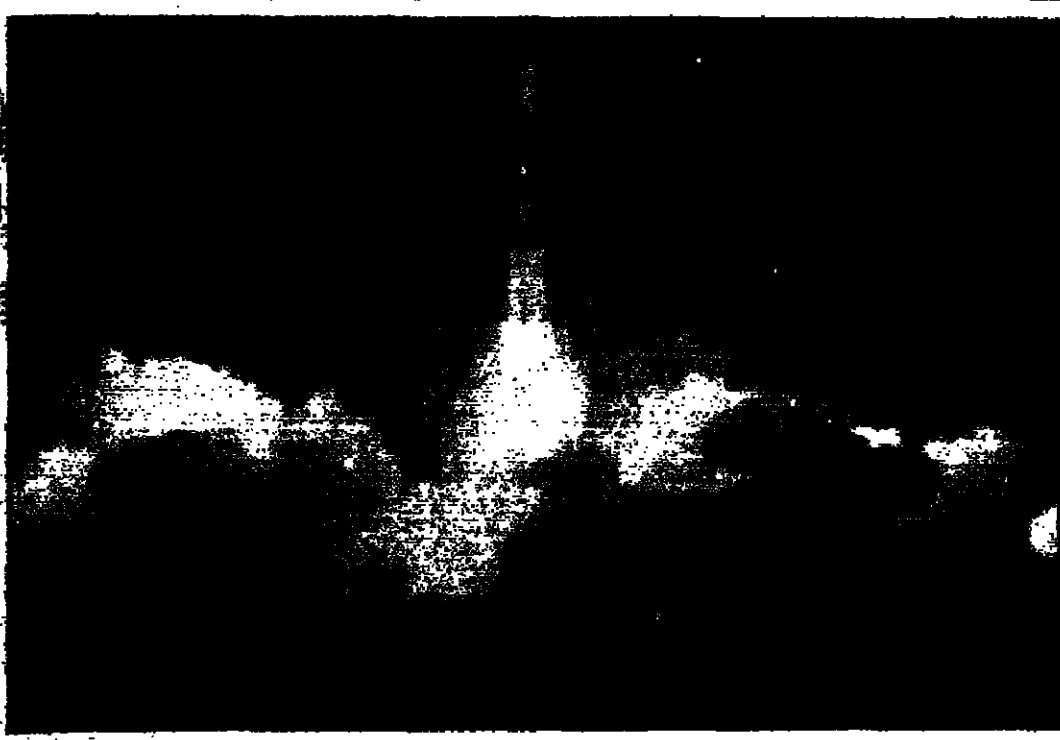
MONTH'S MIND

Mass for the soul of Mrs Margaret F. D'Souza at Infant Jesus Chapel, Holy Family Cathedral at 5.45 pm on 20th Nov '89.

Mother of Sophie, Milcah and Mervyn. Mother-in-law of Oswald Nazareth, Girdhari Lulla & Sheela D'Souza.

هكذا من لاصل

INTERNATIONAL



Delta rocket blast-off

NASA's last Delta rocket streaked toward space yesterday in a spectacular dawn flight to put an astronomy satellite in orbit that will map the faint glow left over from the birth of the universe.

In so doing, astronomers expect to gain valuable insights into the Big Bang explosion that forged the cosmos and perhaps gain data to answer fundamental questions about the origin and evolution of galaxies.

The \$160 million cosmic background Explorer, mounted atop a workhorse \$70 million Delta booster — the last such unmanned rocket in NASA's inventory — roared to life at 6:34 am PST (14:24 GMT) and veered away from its Vandenberg launch pad, 15 minutes late because of concern about high-altitude winds.

"The vehicle has cleared the tower," said NASA spokesman George Deter. "Oh, that's beautiful," a technician said as the vehicle climbed.

Arching south on a flight path over the Pacific Ocean, the live from the Delta's first-stage main engine and solid-fuel boosters lit up the dawn sky with a splash of flame as the slender rocket climbed towards an orbit around Earth's poles.

Built at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, the 5,000-pound (2,200 kg) coe is the first in a new generation of high-tech US astronomy satellites expected to revolutionize knowledge about the cosmos.

By studying the "cosmic background radiation" in unprecedented detail, scientists hope to learn more about the Big Bang itself and about the origin and evolution of large-scale structures like galaxies.

Out of bed at night risky

NEW ORLEANS, Nov 19, (AP) —

Climbing out of bed in the middle of the night can be "a risky moment" for the heart, but shuffling around may not be as dangerous as people have believed, according to two recent studies.

In one of the studies, researchers monitored the hearts of people with coronary artery disease while they slept. If they had to get out of bed in the night, their hearts often experienced potentially harmful periods of ischemia — a temporary shortage of blood.

"It seems that jumping out of bed and running around to do something is a risky moment that we should think about," said Dr. Andrew Selwyn of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

On the other hand, researchers at the Medical College of Wisconsin found that for active, physically fit people with heart disease, shuffling around is probably no riskier than other moderate exercise.

"The feeling over the years has been that we should baby these people," said Sara Dougherty, an exercise physiologist who conducted the study. "We want to get away from that. Shuffling is not for everyone. But to say no one can shovel is just as much an error."

However, she cautioned that people with heart trouble should not shovel unless they have taken a treadmill test and consulted their doctor.

Both studies were presented Monday at the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association. An estimated 28,000 people gathered in New Orleans to hear about 2,700 research reports on heart disease.

Many studies in recent years have attempted to pinpoint activities that are especially risky for people with heart trouble, looking for instances in which the heart's own muscle fails to get enough blood. Sometimes this deprivation causes chest pain called angina, but usually it is entirely painless.

Researchers have found that mental stress can be an especially powerful trigger of ischemia in those with underlying heart disease. For instance, being asked to do simple math problems or to give a public talk can raise the heart's demand for blood or lower its supply, resulting in oxygen deprivation.

In the Boston study, directed by Joan Barry, 30 people with heart disease wore heart monitors while they slept. Twenty-one of them got up at night, usually to go to the bathroom, a total of 36 times. On 24 of these occasions, their hearts showed signs of painless ischemia.

Selwyn theorizes that the blood vessels may be slow to adapt to the heart's changing demands when people stand up after lying down. Earlier studies have shown similar ischemia episodes when people climb out of bed in the morning.

Study on 'cot death' link

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, Nov 19, (AP) —

The sudden death of seemingly healthy babies may be linked to whether they were sleeping face down in their cribs, a Dutch study indicates.

Preliminary results of the study, published in the Nov 11 issue of the British medical journal the Lancet, said that babies lying face down run a greater risk of dying of "ill-defined" reasons.

Adele Engelberts, a physician at the paediatrics department at Amsterdam's Free University Hospital who was involved in the

study, said that such deaths were down by 40 per cent in the Netherlands after a nationwide campaign last year to promote the face-up sleeping position.

The syndrome, known as "sudden infant death" or "cot death," mainly affects infants under nine months of age who seem to be in perfect health.

Mariette Meijers, a physician at a prominent family planning clinic in The Hague, said that "although the real causes of sudden infant death have not yet been fully established, these figures convincingly suggest a link

between the sleeping position and sudden infant death."

Scientists say that among possible causes of the syndrome are a lack of oxygen or blocked respiratory channels with babies lying face down. This is one of dozens of possible causes examined in recent years by researchers studying sudden infant death syndrome.

Some doctors believe the babies also might suffer from hyperthermia, or too high a temperature, leading to a higher susceptibility to viral infections. The face plays an important role in regulating babies' temperatures.

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NEW YORK

The other actresses performed risqué, off-camera gags to make *Daily Planet* laugh during a scene in *Shirley* that was supposed to be a parody of *Shirley* Machine, Olympia Dukakis and Deryl Hannah.

"To help her laugh, we did things that would have caused us to be blacklisted forever... They should have filmed as and released the footage to porno shops. The crew covered away in mortification," she said.

Parsons said the director, Herbert Ross, seemed to have a hard time adjusting to the professionally female cast, which also includes Shirley Machine, Olympia Dukakis and Deryl Hannah.

LOS ANGELES

Ailing entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. based in an outpouring of appreciation from fans coming from Michael Jackson, Jackson's sister at a tribute concert last night, which also included Shirley Machine, Olympia Dukakis and Deryl Hannah.

The star-studded salute Monday night, a benefit for the United Negro College Fund, included performances by Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Whitney Houston.

"I thank you all from my heart," said Davis, 63, who is undergoing radiation treatment for throat cancer. "It's the greatest night of my life."

NEW YORK

Actor Tom Hanks has tried to put down roots, but his busy schedule on film and stage is getting in the way.

The star of *Amadeus* and co-star in the recent film *Parade*, "is appearing in New York City in the new play *A Few Good Men*. He says he bought a house in Seattle, Washington, which grew to love while performing there a year ago in *Eastern Standard*."

"I've only lived in it long enough to prepare the ground for a garden," he said. "I invited my family out to see it last summer, and they got there, but I didn't."

CORANPOLES, Pennsylvania

The Reverend John Donohue and his parishioners look at the heavens in more ways than one.

Dompka, 70, a licensed pilot, is pastor of St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic church, located on a hilltop near Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

Many in the congregation of 1,500 families work at the airport, and Dompka said he sometimes flashes a photo of an airplane on the audio-visual display screen behind the church altar.

"To get their attention immediately, I sometimes use my aviation experience in my sermons," he said.

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana

The 20-foot (6.1 metre) obelisk known as the White Shipway monument was taken apart and moved Wednesday from the foot of Canal Street to a warehouse.

The Streets Department says the monument, erected in 1891 to commemorate a white uprising which overthrew the reconstruction government in 1874, is being moved on advice on engineers for traffic improvements.

The National Association for the Advancement of White People, which founder and former Ku Klux Klan imperial Wizard David Duke calls a white civil rights group, initially objected to moving it.

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania

A couple who cancelled their vacation and posted a \$300 reward when their dog bolted from a cage before being put aboard their airplane have been reunited with the pet.

Donald Dwyer, 71, brought 7-year-old Sue Sue home Monday after she turned up three miles (4.8 kilometres) from the airport on the front porch of a house owned by Dorothy McCutcheon.

Mrs McCutcheon said the half poodle, half Lhasa Apso had been in her neighbourhood since Sunday.

Dwyer and his wife, Mary Lesley, also 71, had posted signs, bought classified ads and searched near the airport for Sue Sue.

Ideal location found in Canada

Bungy Jumping

NANAIMO, British Columbia, Nov 19, (AP) — A New Zealand man is betting that British Columbians will pay to jump off a bridge.

John Brown wants to bring "Bungy Jumping" to western Canada, and thinks he has found the ideal location, the Nanaimo river gorge on Vancouver island.

In the first year of Bungy Jumping in Queenstown, New Zealand, about 17,000 thrillseekers paid to leap off a bridge with a thick rubber cord attached to their ankle, said Brown, a veteran of more than 300 such jumps.

"There's been absolutely no injuries," he said.

A Bungy jumper leaps headfirst towards the water. The cord, or Bungy, slows momentum after about a 45-foot (13.7 metre) freefall. The momentum is all but stopped by the time the jumper reaches the water — but then comes the rebound.

The Bungy pulls the jumper back skyward at almost the same speed as the descent, Brown said.

See also Page 18

BANGKOK

The last of the American film star Elizabeth Taylor flew to the Thai resort island of Phuket for a rest after visiting AIDS patients late Bangkok hospital.

"Ms Taylor is tired after these past few days. She's not used to the heat and she's had a lot of appointments and functions," said Sally Harrison, director of the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Ms Taylor, who chairs the foundation, visited three AIDS patients at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University Hospital on Monday.

"Ms Taylor was very distressed that the man in the middle bed couldn't get the surgery he needed because no surgeon was willing to operate for fear of getting AIDS," Ms Harrison said.

DURHAM North Carolina: A firefighter used mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and oxygen to revive a pair of 2-week-old kittens overcome in a fire that damaged a home.

"We did it once before on a puppy, but it was too late," said

Fire Department rescue specialist A.J. Green. "I do love animals."

No people were injured in the blaze Monday, but firefighters found four kittens in the house and took them outside, said battalion chief D.R. Maynard.

A neighbour began chest massage on a kitten that was breathing and Green began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a second unresponsive kitten. The other two kittens died.

MEMPHIS

Peggy Fleming, who won a gold medal in figure skating, says she gets exercise from walking, a little running and a new interest: weight training.

She said she does the weight training with a girlfriend and this arrangement helps stimulate her.

"I think having a friend will make you stick to an exercise programme a little better, maybe even motivate you to get started," she said Tuesday. "It's a commitment. You don't want to let your friend down."

Ms Fleming, 41, of California, was in Memphis on a promotional tour for support hose.

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5 die in Bavaria bloodbath

FRANKFURT, Nov 19, (AP): Two suspected escaped convicts shot to death four men in a Bavarian bar, seized a hostage, and led police on 300 km (186-mile) chase ending in the death of one gunman, officials said today.

The violence began early yesterday, when the two gunmen killed four men in a bar in the Bavarian town of Laaber and wounded two others from demanding money from them, police said.

Police also said the two men — believed to be Dieter Em and Helmut Bergmayer, both escapees from an Austrian prison — fled the scene in a Honda car that had been stolen in Austria.

Later in the day, after slipping out the back door of a garage where police had followed them, the gunmen burst into a house near Neumarkt, Bavaria, grabbed a 26-year-old woman hostage and fled with her in the woman's Audi, said police.

Hans Kuffer, spokesman for Hesse state police in Wiesbaden, said police caught up with the assailants late last night south of Frankfurt, about 300 km (186 miles) from where the killings occurred.

One of the gunmen died in an ensuing shootout with Bavarian and Hesse state police, and the other was wounded, Kuffer said. He said the woman, who was not identified, was not hurt.

Police did not say which of the two gunmen died.

The 30-year-old Em and Bergmayer, 25, escaped from a prison in Steyr, Austria, on Nov 13, police said. They had both been imprisoned for robbery, said police.

Parents of missing children join hands

HAYWARD, California, Nov 19, (AP): After Michaela Joy Garecht was kidnapped a year ago today, volunteers and parents of other missing children printed and distributed 42,000 fliers bearing her image.

Millions of fliers later, Michaela is still missing, but efforts by the volunteers, children's groups, police and FBI continue strong.

More than ever, parents of kidnap-

ped children nation-wide are turning to each other for help in mobilising community support and publicity.

Brought together by one of the cruelest of crimes, they are comforting each other when the waiting becomes too much.

A long table in the Garecht home is filled with newspaper clippings and fliers of Michaela and others who have disappeared and are feared to be vic-

tims of molesters and psychopaths.

Sharon Garecht chain smokes in the dining room near a portrait of her daughter, who's 10 now — if she lives.

"As more time goes on, it becomes harder to believe that we can find her," Mrs. Garecht said. "The one good thing about the one-year anniversary is it's putting her and her abductor back in the news. We're hopeful that will have some effect towards solving the case."

The telephone rings. It's Linda Borer in Willow, Alaska, whose son, David, vanished last April.

The women, linked by tragedies 2,000 miles (3,200 kms) apart, speak briefly and agree to talk again later.

Mrs. Garecht also keeps in touch with the families of Michael Paul Henley, an 11-year-old missing from New Mexico, and Amber Swartz-Garcia, 9, and Ilene Misheloff, 14, two other missing

California girls.

"I have found that to be able to help somebody else with this kind of situation has been very helpful for me," says Mrs. Garecht, who founded the Michaela Joy Garecht centre to coordinate the search for her daughter and assist other parents of missing children.

The national centre for missing and exploited children, based in suburban

Washington, DC, has recorded 511 abductions by strangers since it opened in June 1984. Of those, 158 children were found alive, 112 dead. Most were sexually abused, authorities said.

The non-profit centre says its figures do not represent the scope of the problem of missing children in the United States. It contends many more cases exist than are reported to the group.

Trailer fire kills nine: An early morning blaze gutted a trailer in Maxton, North Carolina yesterday, killing a mother, her five children and three other children, authorities said.

Two adults escaped, one of them the mother of three of the children who had to be restrained from re-entering the blazing trailer, neighbours and officials said.

The fire erupted about 4 am on one of the first cold nights of the season and quickly engulfed a single trailer sitting on a wooded lot off a rural dirt road, said Robeson county sheriff's dispatcher Gene Lambert. (AP)

Cleanup after ship runs aground: Cleanup of oil from a Greek cargo ship that ran aground near Alaska in the Bering Sea will begin sometime next week, with the start-up time depending largely on the weather, the coast guard said.

Representatives of the coast guard and the ship's owner went to the scene on Friday to assess options for oil cleanup and the ship's salvage.

The 485-foot (148-metre) Milos Reefer ran aground in 57 mile per hour (92 km per hour) winds and 22-foot (7-metre) seas late Tuesday off St. Matthew Island, about 250 miles (400 km) off the west coast of Alaska in the Bering Sea national wildlife refuge. (AP)

'Show Boat' star dies: Norma Terris, who rocketed to stardom in the original production of the musical "Show Boat," has died after a brief illness. She was 87.

Mrs. Terris died on Wednesday at her summer home in Lyme, Connecticut. She also had a home in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Columbus, Kansas, native won critical acclaim for her performance as Magnolia in the Florenz Ziegfeld production of "Show Boat," written by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II. It opened on Broadway in 1927 and ran for 2-1/2 years. (AP)

UN space panel's call: A General Assembly panel urged the United States and the Soviet Union on Friday to negotiate measures to prevent an outer space arms race, but the US delegates opposed the call.

Explaining Washington's position in the assembly's political and security committee, Robert Levine said while the US is firmly committed to arms control in outer space for peaceful purposes, the draft resolution contains "irrelevant hostile rhetoric" that takes no notice of improved superpower relations. (KUNA)

Cheer as Bay bridge reopens: Motorists cheered, tooted their horns and raised victory signs as the Bay bridge reopened exactly one month after an earthquake ruptured the main artery between Oakland and San Francisco.

"What a moment — you've just got to be here," said Roger McCune of Piedmont, among the first motorists to pay his 1-dollar toll and head across the 53-year-old bridge Friday night. "It's something we had to do." (AP)

Five die in plane crash: A light aircraft crashed into a mountain killing five people, including a baby, in South Africa's Natal province on the country's Indian Ocean coast, civil aviation authorities reported yesterday.

Radio contact with the aircraft was lost on Friday afternoon, and a farmer discovered the wreckage strewn over a large area on his farm yesterday. The accident occurred near the village of Franklin 310 miles (500 km) southeast of Johannesburg. (UPI)

200 held in abortion protest: Some 200 demonstrators were arrested and several injuries were reported at a suburban clinic yesterday in the second straight day of abortion protests in the Washington, DC, area, police said.

Police said 500 demonstrators on both sides of the abortion issue smashed a pane of glass as they pressed against the doors of the Hillview Clinic. They said scuffles broke out causing a number of injuries. (AP)

UN to adopt child rights

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 19, (AP): The United Nations tomorrow will adopt an international convention protecting the human rights of children and setting standards of protection against sexual exploitation, neglect and other abuses.

The General Assembly plans to adopt the draft convention on the 30th anniversary of the declaration of the rights of the child. That declaration has no legally binding effect on nations.

"We must seize the opportunity afforded by the convention to spread the word that children as children have inalienable rights, that they have integrity as persons and that the violation of these rights is not acceptable," James P. Grant, the executive director of the UN children's fund, said recently.

United and many governments and private agencies that support the new convention say it will serve as a basis on which they can fight child abuse and neglect.

The convention on the rights of the child wraps together all international laws concerning the rights of minors, which are currently scattered among more than 80 treaties and declarations drafted over the last 60 years.

When at least 20 nations ratify the convention, it will become binding on the ratifying nations.

Many more countries are expected to sign it quickly, but ratification requires a country to bring all its laws into conformity with the provisions of the convention.

The convention deliberately glosses over some contentious issues that arose during the decade it took for a 42-nation working group of the UN Commission on Human Rights to draft it.

It skirts the issue of abortion and when life begins, for example, by stating only in the non-binding preamble that children deserve special protection "before as well as after birth."

The legally binding text contains no such reference to when childhood begins, although the drafting nations did agree it ends at age 18.

The United States supported the inclusion of the reference to the rights of the unborn.

Another dispute arose over a provision in the convention that sets the minimum age of military recruitment at 15.

Norway, Sweden, France, West Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, Mexico and other nations wanted the draft age raised to at least 17, and the Soviet Union was willing to agree with that standard.

The United States, however, held out for keeping the draft age at 15, on the grounds that the 1949 Geneva conventions on warfare and their 1977 additional protocols specify that age, and the new convention should conform to that international agreement.

Recognition of children as individuals with inalienable rights began under international law in 1924, when the League of Nations adopted the Geneva declaration on children's rights, abolishing the common custom of treating children as the property of their father.

The new convention on the rights of the child breaks new ground in the protection of children: it recognizes that they have the right of free association.

Last year the Soviet Union dropped its opposition to that provision, making support for the convention universal among the 42 nations drafting it.

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Two faces of a war

Picture left shows Cecilia Vasquez cradling her daughter Mayra who was wounded by shrapnel on her leg from a bombardment and picture right shows Salvadoran soldiers sprinting as they move



to retake the Urbina bridge, a strategic point outside the provincial capital San Miguel, which had been held by leftist rebels since Nov 11. (Reuter wire-photos)

OAS move for truce

Salvador battles continue

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 19, (Reuters): Sporadic explosions could be heard pounding the mountains around San Salvador today after a week of fighting between leftist guerrillas and government troops.

A military spokesman said battles continued around rebel strongholds in working-class districts on the outskirts of the El Salvadoran capital, but the extent of the fighting was not immediately clear.

Government-controlled radio carried no information on the combat. Instead, it offered listeners a bizarre blend of prayers for peace, martial music, pledges of support for the military and pledge-worded statements condemning the guerrillas, who began their best offensive of the 10-year long civil war last Saturday night.

Organisation of American States Secretary General Jose Baena Soares was due to arrive in El Salvador later today in an attempt to broker a ceasefire.

In a personal letter to Pope John Paul, Attorney-General

Mauricio Eduardo Colorado asked the pontiff to temporarily withdraw liberal Catholic bishops because they may be killed by people who believe they are rebel sympathisers.

The warning followed the killing last Thursday morning of six Jesuit priests and two other people who were dragged out of their beds by about 30 armed men and shot dead in the grounds of the University of Central America. The area was under military curfew at the time.

Colorado said Catholic churchmen were seen by many people as sympathetic to the rebels because they followed so-called liberation theology — a blending of Christian ethics with the concept of popular revolution.

"This humble father, makes for the lives of some bishops who persist in keeping alive this questionable ideology of the church of the poor."

He suggested that the bishops should be withdrawn "for the security and well-being of all the Salvadoran faithful."

Colorado said he was not writ-

ing on behalf of the government. The letter was circulated among reporters yesterday among government statement saying rightist President Alfredo Christiani had instructed that it not be published.

Pope John Paul used his weekly address today to call for an end to fighting in El Salvador.

The Pope said it was impossible to remain indifferent to such unjustified spilling of blood, including the deaths of many innocent women and children, and particularly the "barbarous assassination" of six Jesuit priests.

Washington police have arrested 96 people in front of the White House during a demonstration against US aid to the government of El Salvador, authorities said. Ninety-five of the demonstrators were carried away by police.

Nicaragua has evacuated all of its diplomats from El Salvador after they received death threats, a diplomat said.

The six diplomats and their families arrived in Nicaragua after being recalled temporarily as a precautionary measure.

Enigma of ozone loss

Evidence to destruction found

NEW YORK, Nov 19, (AP): Part of the earth's protective ozone layer is being mysteriously destroyed outside the Antarctic "ozone hole," indicating current understanding of ozone destruction may be incomplete, a study suggests.

Scientists also found evidence that ozone is destroyed before the hole forms every year, said researcher M.H. Proffitt.

Nobody knows why this ozone is disappearing, he said. So the new work means scientists still must work to get a complete understanding of the important problem of what destroys ozone in the atmosphere, Proffitt said.

Other scientists urged caution in interpreting the research but said it is potentially significant.

Ozone, a form of oxygen, is a pollutant at ground level but beneficial high in the atmosphere, where it shields out ultraviolet rays that can promote skin cancer.

Protection of the globe's ozone shield has stirred international concern, focusing on the use of compounds called chlorofluorocarbons. Chlorine from those compounds is implicated in causing the ozone hole, an area of annual, temporary ozone destruction.

The latest study appears in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature. Its authors include Proffitt, of the Co-operative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, a joint venture of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Colorado. The other co-auth-

ors are with NOAA.

The scientists found evidence of ozone destruction at altitudes of about 11 to 12 miles (17 to 19 kms) by analysing readings taken during airplane flights in 1987.

In an unusual approach to measuring ozone losses, the researchers first determined an apparently normal minimum ratio of ozone levels to concentrations of nitrogen compounds. When a given sample of air showed a lower ratio, it was considered to have lost some ozone.

Using this method, the researchers found evidence of ozone loss averaging at least 15 per cent to 30 per cent outside the ozone hole, the limits of which roughly correspond to the outline of Antarctica.

The newfound area of depletion extended about 342 miles (550 kms) outside the boundary of the ozone hole and perhaps twice that far, Proffitt said in a telephone interview.

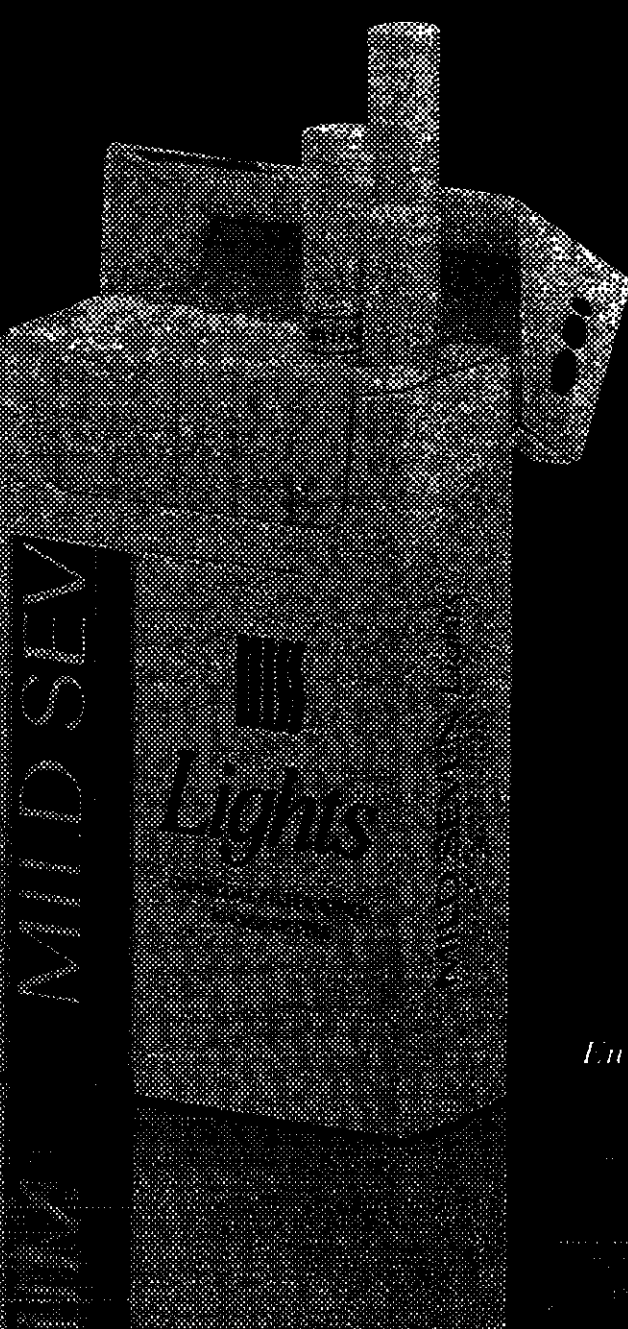
In addition, losses inside and outside the area covered by the ozone hole were observed in mid-August, before the formation of the hole in September.

The researchers concluded that losses outside the ozone hole were caused by some sort of chemical reaction.

Robert de Zafra of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, who has studied the chemistry of the ozone hole, says he found the paper's evidence "interesting but not compelling."

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Sanctions hurting Beijing, says Li

BEIJING, Nov 19, (AP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng said today the world should not take "premature pleasure" from Eastern Europe's moves toward greater openness after decades of hardline communism.

He also said Western trade sanctions against China because of its crackdown on dissent would backfire. But he admitted China has been hurt by the sanctions.

In Beijing, the Chinese government today lodged a protest with US Ambassador James Lilley over US congressional passage of wide-ranging sanctions against China in response to the crackdown.

Li said at a news conference that he did not believe sanctions imposed by the United States and other nations would last long.

"These sanctions are causing considerable strains on the development process," he said. "Western investment is not only beneficial to China but also to those who have invested."

He said China was ready to improve relations with countries that have imposed sanctions because this would be in their mutual interest.

"It is a two-way street," Li told a news conference before leaving for Kathmandu on the final leg of a three-nation South Asian tour. His trip is widely seen as an attempt to offset Beijing's isolation after the June crackdown.

"We are prepared to improve relations with those countries (imposing the sanction). We really hope the sanction will soon go," he said.

"Western investment has been adversely affected due to economic sanctions by some Western countries," Li said.

"Negotiations for some external assistance in some development projects have been postponed."

"That (the imposition of sanctions) is causing difficulties to China's economic development," Li said.

But he added that the situation had improved since the crackdown. He said China had received more foreign investment than in the past 10 years, which did not impose sanctions.

The Chinese leader took a cautious line on changes in Eastern Europe, where popular pressure has resulted in such dramatic moves as the opening of the Berlin Wall and the replacement of hardline communist leaders in several countries.

Another SA cop admits killings

Row over death squad

CAPE TOWN, Nov 19, (Reuters) — A row over the existence of an official South African death squad gathered momentum today when a third South African policeman alleged that it killed anti-apartheid leaders between 1980 and 1982.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said former police constable David "Spook" Tshikalange admitted in an interview he helped to kill black civil rights lawyer Griffiths Mxenge in 1981.

Tshikalange's claim supported charges by former police captain Johannes Coetzee in a newspaper interview last week that he headed an official police death squad.

Coetzee left the country after telling his story to the liberal Afrikaans-language weekly Free Weekblad. His wife, Karin, told two Sunday newspapers she heard from him daily by telephone, but did not know where he was.

She said she and their sons aged 11 and 13 would wait in Pretoria until he was settled abroad with a job. "What he has made public is the truth," she told the pro-government Sunday newspaper Rapport. "He is not lying."

She said her 45-year-old husband had been unemployed since he left the police for health reasons in 1986. The police department repeatedly refused him the security clearance he needed to get a job in a private security company.

"He went through hell the last while before he left the country. He lay awake at night and he wept everything up and eventually he decided he had to talk. The world had to know it all," she said.

Former police chief Johan Coetzee, who is no relation, and police public relations chief Herman Stadler have said the former police captain was a rogue cop motivated by spite.

They had told local newspapers he quit ahead of an internal investigation, that he was part of a pornography ring and that he smuggled Portuguese aliens into the country.

Stadler told the Sunday Times that Tshikalange was "like Coetzee's adopted child," and he had a drink problem and that he was twice convicted for drunk driving.

The Sunday Times said Tshikalange, who fled South Africa after telling his story, admitted taking part in several political assassinations but named only Mxenge as a victim.

Tshikalange said he was based at the Pretoria farm where the police lodge defectors from the African National Congress guerrillas. The defectors, known as Askaris, were identified by Coetzee as the core of the death squad operation.

He said Coetzee ordered him to kill Mxenge and said he did the job with Butane Nofumela, a deathrow prisoner who made the first allegations about the squad the day before he was due to be executed this year for the murder of a white farmer.

When you're walking down the street and you find a 20-dollar bill, that's luck," he said. "But when you walk along with a metal detector and discover a 20-dollar gold piece, that's fortune. All your energies on a target to achieve your goal."

Garbark, a marketing executive with a radio station, enters up to 50 contests a month, shooting for those that are less well known or have short life spans. His wife and three children often help fill out entries.

"I think I'm violating some child labour laws," he said. "I guess I owe them a giant prize."

He said more than luck is involved. "When you're walking down the street and you find a 20-dollar bill, that's luck," he said. "But when you walk along with a metal detector and discover a 20-dollar gold piece, that's fortune. All your energies on a target to achieve your goal."

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IRA admits killing 3 British soldiers

BELFAST, Nov 19, (Reuters) — The IRA admitted today killing three British paratroopers in Northern Ireland and blowing the legs off a British soldier in England with a car bomb.

In what security forces fear could be the start of a pro-Christian bombing blitz, the Irish Republican Army also said it was responsible for a bungled car bomb attack in London on a British general.

The paratroopers, on patrol in the foothills of the Mourne mountains, were killed yesterday when their armoured Land Rover was blown off the road by a massive explosion near the border village of Mayobridge.

Police said they believed it could either have been a landmine or a bomb concealed in a derelict house and detonated by remote control. "But we cannot tell for sure until the area is carefully checked," a spokesman said.

A fourth paratrooper was also seriously injured in the blast, the bloodiest attack this year by the IRA on British troops in Northern Ireland.

In a statement to the media, the guerrilla group said "clearly the IRA cannot be beaten."

"The British public, instead of fruitlessly condemning the IRA, should be talking to the streets and demanding the end of martial law in Northern Ireland," he added.

The IRA also claimed responsibility for two bomb attacks on the British mainland last week.

Staff sergeant Andrew Mould was critically injured by a car bomb that exploded as he was driving his wife to the shops in the garrison town of Colchester, eastern England.

But an attack against a leading British general was badly bungled.

The IRA's target was Sir David Ramsbotham, second-in-command of land forces in Britain and Northern Ireland and known to his men as "Rambo."

But the IRA put a Semtex bomb with a deadly tilt switch under the wrong car outside Ramsbotham's London home last weekend. It was defused in time after a house painter reported it.

British Home Secretary David Waddington has warned top Britons on an IRA death list to be extra vigilant.

A Northern Ireland police spokesman said today: "The IRA clearly seem to be stepping up the pressure on the military. That is obviously a concern in the lead-up to Christmas."

Both of yesterday's blasts were forcefully condemned by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish leader Charles Haughey during a European Economic Community summit in Paris.

Thatcher told Haughey: "The absolute vital thing is that the IRA find no safe haven anywhere so that we can take all steps possible to get them and others who have perpetrated these terrible events."

Condemn

Haughey called the killings callous and said: "I condemn in the strongest and most emphatic terms the latest outrages."

The triple killing near the border with the Irish Republic came at the end of one of the bloodiest weeks of the year in Northern Ireland.

The IRA also shot dead a part-time soldier in the Ulster defence regiment and blew up a building contractor because he supplied British security forces.

The IRA had promised Britain "a long, hot, bloody summer" to mark the 20th anniversary of British troops being sent into Northern Ireland.

In September, an IRA bomb killed 11 Royal Marine bandmen at their barracks in Deal, south-east England.

The IRA have also spread their campaign to Europe, provoking outrage and revulsion in West Germany for killing the German wife of a British soldier and the six-month-old baby of a Royal Air Force corporal.

Wins key mayoral post in Japan

TOKYO, Nov 19, (Reuters) — A victory by Japan's Socialists in a mayoral election today boosted their hopes of toppling the ruling party in general elections expected next February.

The result of the election in Kawasaki, south of Tokyo, denied Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after it had fought its way back in opinion polls after a series of damaging scandals and an unpopular sales tax.

Kaifu is expected to call general elections for the 512-member Lower House in February in a clash with the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), which now leads an opposition majority bloc in the less powerful Upper House.

The victory means citizen support for a major turnaround in politics. It also means support for our plan to scrap the sales tax." JSP secretary-general Tsuruo Yamaguchi said in a statement.

Kawasaki, an industrial city of 1.2 million people, is the only one of Japan's 11 big metropolises with a leftist mayor.

Taiwan deports dissident

Taiwan kidnappers held

TAIPEI, Nov 19, (AP) — Police today deported a Taiwan-born dissident from the United States who tried to return with an altered Taiwanese passport to support opposition candidate campaigning for an independent Taiwan, officials said.

Police said immigration officials at Taipei international airport discovered that Hung Shun-Wu, an engineer from San Jose, California, arrived from Los Angeles with his picture pasted on another person's passport. He was detained briefly and sent back to the United States on another flight, police said.

Meanwhile, Chou Hui-Ying, a candidate for the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, announced that Kuo Pei-Hung, a leader of the Taiwan independence movement in Los Angeles, had entered Taiwan and would appear in Chou's campaign for the Dec 2 general elections.

Local news reports said Taiwan's intelligence authorities have offered \$2 million Taiwan (about \$77,000) for information on Kuo's whereabouts.

TAIPEI, Nov 19, (AP) — Police said they arrested two men today in the kidnapping of the son of Taiwan's richest shipping company executive for a record \$50 million Taiwan dollars (\$1.92 million) ransom. Police said Chang Kuo-Min, 32, the son of Chang Yung-Fa, chairman of the Evergreen group, reported he was kidnapped by three men Friday night while he was returning home.

He was released unharmed last night after the family followed instructions telephoned by the kidnappers to leave the ransom money in five bags in a car in downtown Taipei, police said.

The Changs delayed notifying police until Chang Kuo-Min was released for fear he would be killed, police said.

Police said they arrested Wang Shih-Chieh, 26, a former Chang family house guard, and his friend, Duong Lung, 26, a Chinese-Vietnamese construction worker, at the latter's apartment today.

Taiwan has barred Hung and Kuo, both US citizens, from returning to Taiwan, saying they had advocated that Taiwan should no longer claim to be part of China.

Promoting an independent Taiwan is considered seditious by the nationalist government, which fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to communist forces on the Chinese mainland. It still claims to be China's legitimate government, while Beijing considers Taiwan a renegade province.

On Saturday, President Lee Teng-Hui warned independence activists that "those few secessionists attempting to change the title of the republic" would be punished by law.

Supercollider modifications increase cost

WASHINGTON, Nov 19, (AP) — Design modifications sought for the superconducting supercollider project could add at least \$1 billion to its \$6 billion price tag or cause it to be moved from its Texas location, the Washington Post reported in its Sunday edition.

The Post, quoting unnamed US officials and independent scientists, said Department of Energy officials are determined to build the project "to cost" because of federal budget constraints.

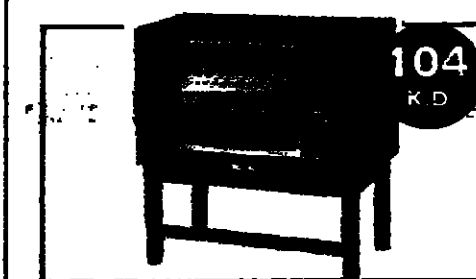
But such a decision, if carried out, could result in a smaller, less powerful collider that would be unsuitable for its chosen site of Waxahachie, a remote Texas town south of Dallas, the newspaper said.

Congress recently approved the first \$225 million to build the collider over an eight-year period.

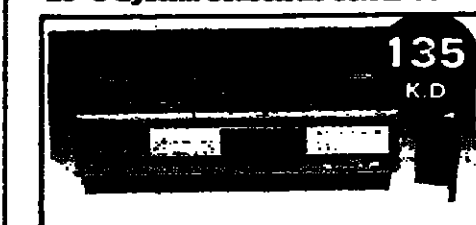
The Texas site was chosen after fierce rivalry among states for the project and the accompanying jobs and dollars.



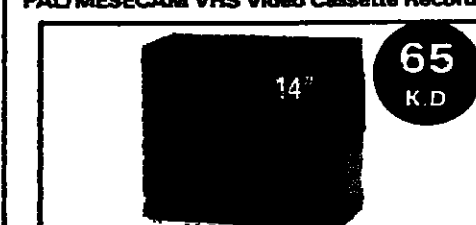
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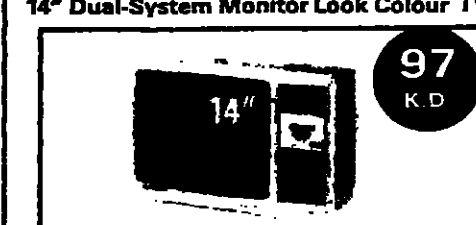
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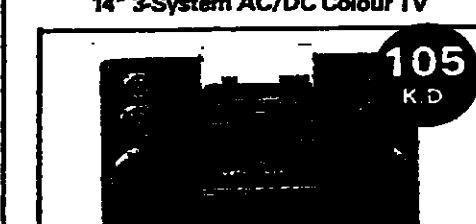
FVH M540 PAL/MESECAM VHS Video Cassette Recorder



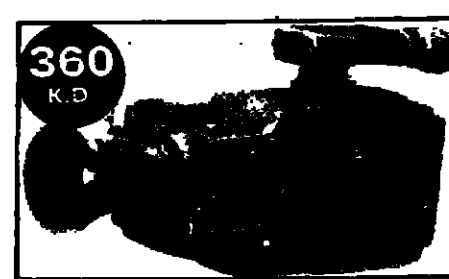
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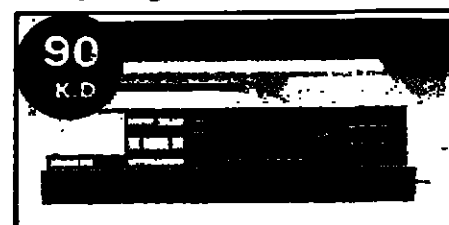
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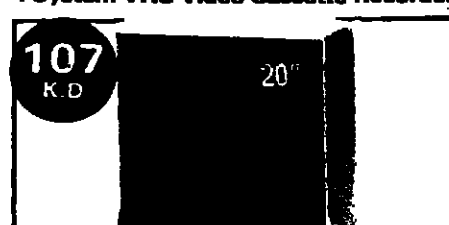
DCS-M82 Stereo Component System with Surround Sound



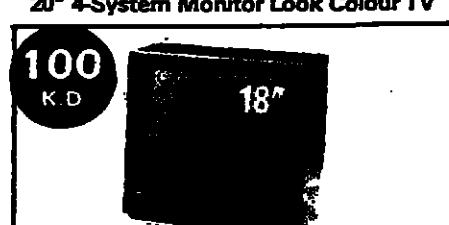
FVC-P901 compact digital 8mm video camcorder



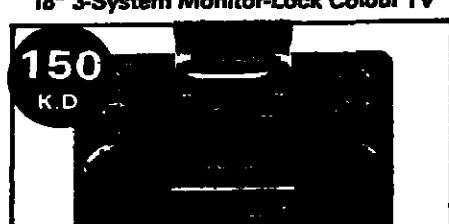
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MADE IN JAPAN

Police report drug-related deaths in Thailand

BANGKOK, Nov 19, (Reuters) — Police in Thailand's top beach resort of Pattaya have reported an alarming growth in drug-related deaths among foreign tourists, the Bangkok Post newspaper reported today.

It said the deaths raised fears of a plot by criminal gangs.

The paper quoted doctors as saying traces of drugs were found in most of the 61 deaths reported this year in the town, a strip of high-rise hotels and low bars that is as well-known for its nightclubs as its curving beach.

It quoted a report drawn up on Nov 14 by Pattaya's police chief Lieutenant-Colonel Paitir Supasawat as saying 39 of the 61 deaths were caused by heart failure. Only four of the heart attack victims were over 40 years old.

"Many Pattaya doctors believe that prostitutes working in the resort are introducing stimulants to tourists before they encourage them to try hard drugs," the paper said.

A draft law goes before the Senate (Upper House) for debate next week proposing punishments including fines, confiscation of driving licenses and, for repeated offences, jail sentences for people found using hard or soft drugs.

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Addicts protest

ROME, Nov 19, (Reuters) — Up to 50,000 young Italians marched through the centre of Rome yesterday to protest against proposals to make personal drug use a crime, organisers said.

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Isuzu Gemini, 2

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12 Pure golden egg

Isuzu Gemini, 2

United

Beijing protests against US bill

BEIJING, Nov 19, (AP): China today expressed its "utmost indignation" over passage by the US Congress of wide-ranging sanctions against China for its bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators last spring.

Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Huaqing lodged a strongly worded protest with US Ambassador James Lilley over the bill, which has been sent to President George Bush for signing, a US diplomat said.

Liu, who is responsible for North American affairs, told Lilley that China regards the bill as interference in its internal affairs "and hopes the US government will take action to stop it," said the diplomat, who would not be further identified.

The bill was drawn up to protest the Chinese army's violent attack on unarmed protesters on June 3-4, crushing the movement that had demanded democratic, educational and other social reforms.

The Chinese government maintains the demonstrations were "counter-revolutionary turmoil" instigated with help from overseas and sought to overthrow China's communist government.

"Since the Chinese government put down the counter-revolutionary rebellion ... in accordance with the Chinese constitution and laws, the US Congress has meddled in China's internal affairs and stirred up an anti-China wave by adopting one resolution after another on this matter which is purely the internal affairs of China," state-run television and the official Xinhua news agency quoted Liu as saying.

Xinhua said Liu lodged a "strong protest" and expressed China's "utmost indignation" over congressional passage of the bill.

Latvians celebrate on I-Day

MOSCOW, Nov 19, (UPI): Latvians by the hundreds of thousands flocked to the capital of Riga yesterday to celebrate the 71st anniversary of the declaration of independence, a spokesman for the Latvian People's Front said.

Anda Anspoka, in a telephone interview, said between 400,000 and 500,000 people gathered along the banks of the Daugava river in central Riga to commemorate the Soviet republic's former independence, declared on Nov 18, 1918 and lasting until Soviet occupation in 1940.

Anspoka said many carried the national red and white flags at the rally. On Nov 11, the Latvian Supreme Soviet declared Nov 18 an official holiday and the Riga rally was given the green light by the governing body.

The rally was attended by Latvian President Anatoly Gorbunov and ideology chief Ivars Kesbris, Anspoka said.

Fergie takes her daughter abroad

LONDON, Nov 19, (AP): The Duchess of York has taken 13-month-old Princess Beatrice on her first trip abroad, a vacation in Australia, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

The Duchess slipped quietly out of the country for a private holiday with her elder sister, Jane, who lives with her husband Alex Makin on a farm in northern New South Wales.

Buckingham Palace gave no details of the visit other than to confirm that the Duchess and her daughter had already arrived.



Walesa: vision

Thousands of Czechs march for reform

PRAGUE, Nov 19, (Reuters): Thousands of Czechs marched through Prague this evening calling for the resignation of the conservative Communist leadership.

The crowd, estimated at over 20,000 gathered in central Wenceslas Square and began marching down National Street chanting "Jakes out," referring to Communist Party leader Milos Jakes.

It was the third consecutive day of anti-government demonstrations in

Prague.

On Friday a march by 50,000 people, the biggest protest since 1969, the first anniversary of the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, was broken up by baton-wielding riot police, and there were smaller rallies yesterday.

Today the police stayed in the background, though some streets along the route had been barricaded off.

The marchers shouted "Punish the murderers", an apparent reference to

reports that a 20-year-old student died in Friday's demonstration after being beaten by police.

The government denied anyone had died and dissident sources who originally reported the death said they now had doubts about the truth of the report.

The protesters paused briefly at the stop on National Street where the youth was reported to have died.

Police detained Drahomira Draska, whom dissidents had quoted as a wit-

ness to the alleged incident and the dissidents said they were no longer sure of her story.

Leading dissident Petr Uhl, quoting Draska, said on Saturday that a 20-year-old mathematics student named Martin Smid had died after being beaten by riot police during the protest, the biggest in 20 years, which called for an end to Communist rule.

Uhl said Draska told him she was a friend of Smid and his parents had been advised of his death by police.

But today Uhl told Reuters: "I am not absolutely sure now." Another dissident, Vaclav Benda, said he was beginning to lose confidence in the witness.

The dissidents said at least six other people were detained. They included prominent Charter 77 human rights group member Anna Sabatova, who had planned to meet Smid's parents today, and Benda's son Marek, a student who helped organise Friday's

protest. Vaclav Benda, one of the founders of Charter 77, and Uhl said all six were taken away as they tried to enter or leave the Benda apartment which was under heavy security surveillance today.

Prague Radio meanwhile quoted Education Minister Jana Synkova as saying of the report of Smid's death: "These rumours are not based on fact. Martin Smid is alive and well."



Gorbachev will receive Bush aboard the 12,000-ton missile cruiser 'Slava' during the Mediterranean summit off Malta. The 'Slava' is seen moored in the top-secret naval base of Sevastopol. (Reuters wirephoto)

Summit ship is a fortress

MOSCOW, Nov 19, (Reuters): The Soviet warship co-hosting next month's superpower summit is a modern floating fortress but also a miniature city capable of keeping world leaders comfortable at sea.

When US President George Bush and Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev meet on board the Slava (glory) off Malta on December 2 and 3, they will be surrounded by anti-ship cruise missiles, air defence missiles and a 130 mm twin barrel gun.

But they will also be able to take a sauna, exercise in a gymnasium or see a movie, and their clothes can be laundered on board. There is a medical centre should anyone get sick, and a library, should anyone tire of reading briefing papers.

The details of the Slava were revealed this weekend by the government newspaper Izvestia, which boasted that it was 19 years younger than the USS Belknap, the American ship being used in the summit, beautiful, and tech-

nologically first rate.

"In the opinion of US and other foreign journalists who have been on the cruiser, in its combat capabilities Slava far and away outstrips corresponding Western vessels of the same class," Izvestia said.

"With missile systems, artillery installations, and automatic guns, the Slava is really a menacing floating fortress," it said, adding: "with its beautiful architecture, its outward appearance is streamlined and elegant."

The gas-turbine powered guided missile cruiser, 187 metres (613 feet) long and 21 metres (69 feet) wide and with a displacement of 11,000 tonnes, entered service in the Soviet Black Sea fleet in 1983.

It has all the latest computers and a space-based system of communication and navigation, Izvestia said. Satellites guarantee constant communication with the warship and can tell its exact location in any weather conditions, the report said.

Call for civil liberties

March in Dresden

WEST BERLIN, Nov 19, (AP): East German pro-democracy demonstrators took to the streets of Dresden today, while communist authorities published a study detailing glaring deficiencies in the country's troubled economy.

Tens of thousands marched in the city centre of Dresden, demanding the Communist Party relinquish its constitutional monopoly on power and calling for the former leadership to be held accountable for the country's crisis, the state-run news agency ADN said.

The demonstrators, who wound up their protest in front of the city's opera house, also called for basic civil liberties and measures to save local monuments, ADN said.

The West was a mecca for sightseers and shoppers from the East over the weekend, but with virtually all stores closed today, many visitors headed home yesterday afternoon, catching East German railways by surprise.

ADN reported tumultuous scenes at stations and heavy overcrowding of public transport.

Meanwhile, a survey of East German industry by state inspectors said not enough enterprises are efficient enough to free up workers for other tasks in a centrally planned economy plagued by labour shortages.

Workers criticised poor planning of production, bad organisation of work, and a shortage of information about such problems, ADN quoted the study as saying. At one synthetic fibre factory, nearly a quarter of the workers interviewed were said to have called for a reduction of bureaucracy.

The study said more enter-



A West German girl hammers the Berlin Wall for a souvenir. (Reuters wirephoto)

prises must work on boosting efficiency, saying many plants had faked records to make higher-ups believe they had made improvements.

The survey was based on interviews with some 20,000 workers in 47 conglomerates and 363 smaller factories, ADN said.

On Saturday, East Germany's Parliament approved a reform-minded cabinet, and Parliament members formed a committee to investigate cases of corruption, personal enrichment and abuse of power.

Communist Party chief Egon Krenz was quoted as strongly indicating that the committee would soon launch an investigation into the activities of his predecessor and mentor, Erich Honecker, as well as other top leaders of the hardline rule ousted over the past month.

"The responsibility of former general-secretary Honecker and former Politburo members Guenter Mittag and Joachim Hermann are names that have been concretely identified. We

are not covering up," the Hamburg-based Bild Am Sonntag newspaper reported Krenz as saying.

Premier Hans Modrow's 28-member cabinet was immediately sworn in, after receiving approval from the 500-member people's chamber.

Eleven of Modrow's ministers are non-communists, but they belong to political parties long aligned with the ruling force. Reform groups like Democracy Now and New Forum are also agitating for a role in government affairs.

The East German Parliament also set up a committee to study possible constitutional changes, including stripping the communists of their monopoly on power.

East Germany's feared state security service will no longer be used as a big brother tool of political oppression, its chief Dr Wolfgang Schwannitz told Reuters.

In the first exclusive interview with a Western correspondent in his 38-year career, he said the former State Security Ministry was slashing manpower by four to five thousand.

It intended to give up office space and barracks, including a 480-room hotel for operatives in East Berlin.

"No intelligence service in the world is going to give concrete information on its strength. But this much I will say, 4,000 to 5,000 is a lot," he said at the weekend.

Western intelligence experts estimate the ministry had about 20,000 permanent staff, an elite guards regiment of 7,000 and a highly-efficient network of countless informants.

The reforms in Poland and Hungary should lead to a political and economic integration of Europe, "a Europe in which there are no borders," Walesa said. He said that with the destruction of the Berlin Wall, East and West Germany should be reunited.

"The German problem must be solved, but as part of the integration of the whole of Europe, and not against anybody," he said.

"Not on the Nazi model, not the Stalin model, but a new and wiser model that has to bring peace, tranquility," said Walesa, who won the Nobel peace prize in 1983.

East European reformers have been inspired in part by the economic integration of Western Europe planned for 1992, said Francis Fukuyama, a deputy director of the State Department policy planning staff.

EEC offers cash for democracy in East

Thatcher rejects German reunification talks

PARIS, Nov 19, (Agencies): European Economic Community leaders have told reformist states in the Soviet bloc that they can have Western cash to salvage their economies if they move towards full democracy.

At a hastily arranged summit yesterday, the 12 heads of state acknowledged that the economies of Poland and Hungary were in such a mess that the reform process in both countries could be jeopardised.

But the only concrete result of their dinner meeting at the Elysee Palace was a pledge to try to unlock billions of dollars in Western aid

already promised as quickly as possible.

"We are ready to co-operate by all available means towards creating healthier economies, in exchange for... a verified return to democracy, respect for human rights and the calling everywhere of free and secret elections," French President Mitterrand said.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said: "It is important that practical help should be in return for proper democracy."

Hungary turns away travellers

BUDAPEST, Nov 19, (AP): The Hungarian government turned away hundreds of people trying to travel to and from Romania yesterday and stepped up security inside the country, reports said.

In Romania, police were pulling Romanian citizens from trains leaving for the West, and many of them were turned back, said travellers who did not want to be identified.

Hungary's official MTI news agency quoted a senior official of the Hungarian border guard as saying that yesterday 1,500 people wished to travel from Hungary to Romania but 575 of them were turned back by Romanian authorities, irrespective of their nationality or travel destination.

The restrictions began on Friday, when at least 70 people were taken off a train and several were subjected to body searches, said travellers. It was not known how many of them were allowed to proceed.

Meanwhile, security measures were stepped up in all parts of Romania, while random identity checks were carried out at Bucharest's airport, railroad and bus stations, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported from the Romanian capital.

Tanjug linked the restrictions to a Congress of the ruling Communist Party starting in Bucharest on Monday. The Congress is expected to reaffirm the leadership of Communist Party chief and President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Tamas Oltvanyi, reporting for Hungarian state television from Bucharest, said all roads leading to the Romanian capital were being controlled by national police and "people are being turned back at the border."

Vehicles with foreign or out-of-Bucharest license plates were being checked, Tanjug reported, interpreting the security as "a sign of the difficult situation surrounding the 14th Congress" of the Romanian Communist Party.

It said while Romania has no organised opposition, it is faced with pressure from abroad, especially after top-level personnel changes in Bulgaria and East Germany.

"For some reason, starting Friday afternoon, the Romanian border guards have been turning back at the border people trying to enter Romania," Lieut. Col. Laszlo Fenyoe of the Hungarian border guards told the Associated Press earlier in the day.

Romania has barred a French and a Yugoslav journalist from covering the Congress of Communist Party starting tomorrow, press sources said today.

Jean Burren, Vienna bureau chief of Agence France Press (AFP) news agency, received a call today from the Romanian embassy telling him he was unwelcome.



Young Bulgarian at a pro-democracy rally holds a photograph, showing ousted leader Todor Zhivkov as Adolf Hitler. (Reuters wirephoto)

Eight days of political change

Bulgaria's new era

SOFIA, Nov 19, (Reuters): An eight-day whirlwind of political change and open dissent has dragged Bulgaria from its orthodox communist past towards a new era of Soviet-style reform.

Over 50,000 Bulgarians shouting "democracy," "elections" and "Gorbachev" massed in Sofia yesterday to vent four decades of frustration with communist rule and to demand the trial for corruption of ousted hardline leader Todor Zhivkov.

On Friday, the country's new reformist leader Petar Mladenov, who ousted Zhivkov with support from the army only a week earlier, said he personally favoured free elections.

Yesterday's rally, organised by leading dissidents, was the biggest independent protest since World War Two and found echoes in smaller demonstrations throughout Bulgaria, with nine million people the Warsaw pact's smallest state.

The show of new-found people power was the latest surge in a tide of political change that has put Mladenov in control of Bulgaria and disgraced his predecessor Zhivkov.

"This has to be a watershed in Bulgaria's history," said a Western diplomat after the week's momentous but orderly events. "People here feel that a wall has finally been breached."

The moves in Bulgaria seem to have brought the country into the same camp as Hungary, Poland and East Germany, in following the reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The sudden change sharply

contrasted with Czechoslovakia, however, where the hardline authorities unleashed riot police and paratroopers on Friday and violently crushed the country's biggest demonstration in 20 years.

Bulgaria's changes began on Nov 10 with the surprise ousting of Zhivkov as party boss after 35 years of iron-clad rule, economic mismanagement and ruthless crushing of dissent.

Mladenov, formerly Zhivkov's foreign minister, swiftly consolidated his power last Thursday, purging top conservatives from the party, and followed this up by becoming head of state on Friday and shaking up the government, ready for reforms.

He promoted a team of younger technocrats, the star among whom was Andrei Lukanov, now a full political member.

While Mladenov is hailed by many Bulgarians as a reformer, the changes have shattered the regal Zhivkov family, a clan now sullied by allegations of corruption and misrule.

Zhivkov's former ally and defence minister Slavcho Trenki, launched a blistering attack on their corruption at Friday's parliamentary session accusing them of squandering public money on private comforts.

Cheering Bulgarians yesterday burnt photographs of their former leader and waved posters depicting him as Adolf Hitler, a convict behind bars or clutching a bloodstained hammer and sickle. Others chanted for him to be put on trial.

British communists greet changes in East

LONDON, Nov 19, (AP): Britain's hardline Communist Party welcomed the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe as delegates gathered for the annual party congress.

The Communist Party of Britain, which broke with the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1987 over the original party's revisionist outlook opened its two-day meeting yesterday in north London.

The hardline party claims a membership of about 1,800. The revisionist party, which has given up talk of class war in favour of a new "realist" approach, has about 7,500

members. Delegates at yesterday's congress session praised the efforts of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to restructure the Soviet economy with perestroika.

Veteran British communist Andrew Rothstein, who has been a member of Britain's Communist Party since it was founded in 1920, applauded the changes. "The tremendous achievements, not only of the Soviet Union but also of all the socialist countries... have altered for the better the social and economic conditions," he said.

Mitterrand called the summit at just five days' notice in response to the tumultuous events in East Germany, which last week smashed holes in the Berlin Wall and the rest of its western border to let its people visit the West.

The leaders said they welcomed the opening of the border but did not discuss German reunification, a suddenly less tangible prospect that many of the view with misgivings.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he had assured his EEC partners that Bonn's preoccupation with East Germany did not mean any slackening in its commitment to EEC union.

"We are all aware that the union of Europe within the European Economic Community has priority today more than ever... and is one of the preconditions for reform in Eastern Europe," he said.

Thatcher implicitly rejected talk of German reunification, saying Europe's post-war borders must remain intact. "I would not see the agenda," she said. "They should stay as they are and all military matters must continue to be conducted through Nato (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) and the Warsaw Pact."

The EEC leaders said developments in Eastern Europe were at a critical stage.

"I cannot stress often enough... we are under enormous time pressure if the reforms are going to succeed," Kohl said.

"If the reforms in Poland and Hungary... should fail it would have unpredictable consequences for the whole of Europe and not least for East Germany."

They agreed to urge the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reach agreement on economic reforms with Hungary and Poland before the end of the year. "Once these negotiations are completed, quite a lot of aid is triggered and funds and help become available," Thatcher said.

Agreement with the IMF would allow the EEC to subordinate an already agreed one billion dollar "stabilisation fund" loan for Poland and a bridging loan of the same amount for Hungary.

The stabilisation fund is to encourage Poles to deposit dollars in the banking system by guaranteeing reserves are available to meet withdrawals.

Hungary needs a bridging loan because its citizens have been taking hard currency out of the country since it lifted the Iron Curtain.

The leaders gave no indication of the likely overall scale of EEC aid. "I hope that it will be large," Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said.

The 12 agreed to study Mitterrand's proposal for a new bank to channel sorely-needed investment capital to East bloc reformers, but Thatcher described this as a longer-term possibility.

The community "wants to increase its encouragement to the reform movements everywhere in Europe which will accelerate the decline of totalitarianism," Mitterrand said afterward.

He called the summit last week so Europeans could assess the rapid events in Eastern Europe before the Dec. 2-3 shipboard meeting of Malta between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Both Thatcher and West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher are to meet separately with Bush this week while Mitterrand is expected to see the American leader sometime next month.

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Rajiv's rule clouded by dashed hopes

NEW DELHI, Nov 19, (AP): Rajiv Gandhi rose to power on Oct 31, 1984, only hours after his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by two bodyguards.

An airline pilot who stepped in to console a grieving nation, he took on the mantle of a compassionate and competent leader, persuading the country he had a vision for leading India into a bright future.

In a landslide victory two months later, the public gave him a ruling mandate that surpassed even those of his mother and Jawaharlal Nehru, his grandfather and independent India's first prime minister.

For a nation reeling from fears for its security and its future, Rajiv appeared to be the right leader.

The new prime minister promised to calm sectarian violence, to banish corruption from business and politics and to transform India into a modern nation free of its ancient burden of poverty.

But today, his rule is clouded by dashed hopes.

His ruling Congress Party is battered by internal discord and a string of state election losses. Newspaper reports have placed an arms scandal at Rajiv's doorstep despite his

denials of any wrongdoing.

Pitted against an unusually confident and unified opposition, the prime minister is facing perhaps his greatest test — a national election — with balloting set for Nov 22, 24 and 26.

Rising above their usual squabbles, the opposition leaders have forged a fragile coalition led by Vithwanath Prasad Singh, arch political foe of Rajiv. Their main issues are honesty and efficiency in government.

"A united opposition is now a reality. And that is a threat to Congress Party," said Ashwini Ray, a political science professor at New

Delhi's prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The Congress Party has won control of parliament in seven of the country's eight elections, despite getting less than half the popular vote, because the opposition was splintered into several parties.

This time a five-party opposition coalition, known as the National Front, has fielded 315 candidates for the 525 seats at stake. Its candidates, along with co-operating candidates from other opposition parties, are aiming for one-on-one contests with the Congress in nearly 90 per cent of the races.

Whatever the outcome, the election threatens to trigger political infighting that might even splinter the Congress Party, which was born from the struggle for independence from Britain. That independence was achieved in 1947.

During his first year in power, Rajiv promised reforms and level-headed leadership. He subsequently undertook ground-breaking reforms that liberalised the economy and opened the door to foreign investment.

Despite high deficits, a worrisome trade balance and rising inflation largely due to a

huge military buildup, the economy is delivering its best performance in 42 years of independence.

He also has broken seemingly insurmountable diplomatic barriers with neighbours China and Pakistan and improved India's relations with the West, particularly the United States.

Despite his achievements, his Western-educated leadership has come under attack from critics who charge him with failing to address the needs of a vast nation of 880 million, where tradition still looms large.

Hindu push

AYODHYA, India, Nov 19, (UPI): Hindu revivalism is sweeping across northern India and politicians are vying to harness the emerging political force for votes in this week's parliamentary elections.

But the phenomenon has implications far beyond the Nov 22-26 polls as it is likely to come to produce a rise in the popularity of Hindu nationalist politicians, a development that the founders of modern India tried to avert.

Whoever forms the next government will have to deal with the growing force and one of the first challenges will likely be to build a temple on a disputed holy site. Already, more than 300 people have died in Hindu-Muslim riots since Sept 29.

Thousands of fanatics, bhayans and faithful flocked to witness the Nov 9 foundation-laying rites for the temple in Ayodhya, 310 miles (500 km) east of New Delhi, on a plot bordering a mosque that the fundamentalists say they will move or demolish.

The participants declared that the ceremony marked India's birth as a Hindu nation, and the issue is expected to have a major impact on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's re-election bid in a demonstration of how strong the winds of Hindu revivalism are blowing.

"Definitely this will affect the elections," declared Pralath Sharma, a leading activist at the Ayodhya event. "There is a Hindu renaissance, and Hindus are going to go up and up. I will vote for whoever looks after this."

Similar sentiments were voiced by numerous other Hindu residents in random interviews conducted throughout Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state and a traditional stronghold of Rajiv's Congress (I) Party, which is facing its toughest election battle in 12 years.

Rajiv initially bowed before the groundswell, losing the traditional support of Muslims, by declining to ban the foundation-laying ritual because he could not afford to offend mainstream Hindu sentiments.

But, he then placed the strategy in jeopardy. Apparently stung by criticism over the deaths of more than 300 people in Hindu-Muslim riots linked to the Ayodhya dispute, Rajiv banned further work on the temple.

"The militants have agreed to postpone construction until January, but left no doubt that Rajiv's decision would be a costly one."

"The Hindus do not like Congress," declared Harish Chandra Khulbe, 26, an unemployed salesman from Sultanpur City. "I think 75 per cent are against Congress. We have been left like dogs."

Various groups are championing the Hindu revival, but perhaps the most integral is the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), or World Hindu Organisation, which is overseeing the temple-building project in Ayodhya.

Its senior leaders say they believe in peaceful agitation, but many members are renowned for their rabid hatred of India's 100 million Muslims.

"There are no Muslims in India," declared B.L. Sharma, the VHP's firebrand New Delhi leader. "Muslims are just Hindus with weak blood."

But, because the 2 million-member VHP is not a political organisation, many fundamentalists are looking to the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, with which it is closely linked.

Analysts predict the BJP will increase its standing in the 544-member lower house from its current two seats to more than 60. And it is expected to make major gains in at least three of the five state assembly elections also being held.

The main opposition force, the Janata Dal of Vishwanath Pratap Singh, is espousing a secular stance on Ayodhya and communal divide issues. But fundamentalists are feeling such dislike for the Congress (I) Party they could even vote for the Janata Dal or one of its four partners in the national front coalition in districts where the BJP is not

Religion may flatten Rajiv

Lethal link

NEW DELHI, Nov 19, (Reuters): Religion cost Indira Gandhi her life in 1984 and could well cost Rajiv Gandhi, her son and successor as prime minister, next week's Indian elections.

Ceremonies were held in New Delhi today to mark the 71st anniversary of Mrs Gandhi's birth — an occasion which brings into sharp focus the close, often lethal link between religion and politics in India.

"Her son has used her memory to raise his campaign to an emotional peak through a woman who came to symbolise the Hindu deity Bharat Mata (Mother India)," said George Mathews of the independent institute of social sciences in Delhi.

Worshipped Bharat Mata, representing Hindu nationalism, is one of many deities worshipped by India's 650 million Hindus whose faith embraces a wide range of beliefs and customs.

Clashes between Hindus and India's 100 million Muslims are not new; the nation came into being amid massive blood-letting when the British Raj ended in 1947.

Violence between the two is an almost daily occurrence but tension has intensified since 200 people died last month in savage Hindu-Muslim riots.

The genesis was a dispute over a holy site claimed by both faiths in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Further west, Sikh extremists fighting for a homeland stepped up their killings of mainly Hindus in Punjab state. Mrs Gandhi was killed by Sikh bodyguards after she ordered troops to storm the Golden Temple, Sikhdom's most sacred shrine, to disarm separatists who had taken refuge there.

Symbols Rajiv's Congress Party and the opposition have made liberal use of Hindu religious symbols during campaigning for the elections which begin next Wednesday.

Moviemaker-turned-opposition leader, N.T. Rama Rao, used election posters of himself dressed as one of his top film roles, that of the Hindu god Krishna, until Congress cried foul and election officials ordered them removed.

Congress has pressed into service another actor who has also won fame playing a Hindu deity.

Mathews said "at the core of the Hindu psyche" were insecurities caused by a series of invasions by conquerors ranging from Alexander the Great to the British.

The conquest that hurt most was that of the Muslim Moghuls who came in the 16th century and founded a 300-year dynasty. India's most famous monument, the Taj Mahal, was a product of Moghul ingenuity — not Hindu.

The Moghuls forcibly converted Hindus and built mosques where ancient temples had stood, said Amrit Lal Sirpaul, a leader of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party.

Enraged Muslims, traditionally Congress supporters, were enraged when the government allowed Hindu militants to hold foundation stone ceremonies for a new temple near a 16th century mosque.

The militants say the mosque was built over a shrine marking the birthplace of their deity Rama. "It is a god-sent opportunity to win back all that we have lost through these invasions. With this, we can change the destiny of our nation," Sirpaul said.



Last push

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (left) with Minister for Information and Broadcasting H. K. L. Bhagat, wave to the crowd at the start of a campaign rally in New Delhi on Sunday. Rajiv addressed three rallies to begin his final push before the close of the election campaign. (Reuters wirephoto)

running.

The BJP bases its appeal on feelings among many of India's 700 million Hindus that the government has consistently favoured Muslims and other minorities to win elections at the expense of the majority, whose votes have mostly been divided on caste lines.

The party's support is largely from city dwellers, particularly lower-middle class businessmen and shopowners in Hindi-speaking northern India.

But the BJP base has been expanding in recent years because of growing Hindu resentment against public employment and education schemes that favour minorities, the bloody Sikh separatist insurgency in Punjab and the Muslim secessionist movement

in northern Kashmir.

The BJP calls for no compromise with any group threatening India's unity and it contends that the country's minorities should abide by the will of the majority or emigrate.

The use of communal appeals and symbols are rooted in the complex nature of India's 498 million voters — which requires politicians to adopt strategies based on ideology, caste, religion and regional concerns.

But, the Hindu revivalists' power is their ability to surmount the myriad of caste barriers to which parties are shackled, and deliver a message that broadly touches all adherents of what must be the world's most heterogeneous and undogmatic faiths.

Lanka rushes troops to east

COLOMBO, Nov 19, (AP): The military today sent more than 3,000 soldiers and police commanders into an east coast district where scores of people were killed in ethnic violence last week, officials and witnesses said.

The latest trouble erupted on Thursday in Ampara district, where Sri Lankan troops reportedly have routed a minority Tamil militia group in a power struggle following the withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping troops from the district.

Ampara residents blame the new militia, called the Tamil National Army, for a massacre of unarmed Muslim policemen in Karativu on Friday. The government acknowledged the attack today, saying 41 policemen were killed by "a group of persons" it did not identify.

Death toll Karativu was one of six Ampara towns where police stations were attacked simultaneously early Friday. The government earlier said 18 policemen and soldiers and 25 rebel militiamen were killed in the attacks on four towns near Karativu.

By government count, at least 84 people died in the massacres and fighting. Ampara residents, speaking on condition of anonymity, said yesterday that at least 72 people had died.

Today, the head of the provincial council in northeastern Sri Lanka claimed 307 people were killed.

Vartharajah Perumal, the council's chief minister, asserted the government had lost 250 men — 107 soldiers, 97 policemen and 46 police commandos.

He also claimed 40 civilians and 17 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were killed, but the Tigers denied losing any men.

Indian army

Indian troops are in the Batticaloa district, just north of Ampara and 218 km (136 miles) east of Colombo. Batticaloa residents today said about 200 Indian troops parachuted into the rice paddies at Thurala-celavanni, 6 km (4 miles) north of Batticaloa town late last night.

The residents, who requested anonymity, said the Indians deployed in or near Batticaloa town last made no move to head to Ampara.

In Colombo, a spokesman for the Indian High Commission initially denied new Indian troops had been deployed. But later he said new troop arrivals were not inconsistent with India's phased withdrawal since they have not started evacuating Batticaloa. The Indian spokesman customarily is not identified.

Security forces and local officials of Ampara today accused each other of complicity in a bloody gunbattle in which locals claim more than 300 people were killed on Friday.

The military said the TNA attacked five police stations simultaneously in the eastern Ampara district. It said 97 people died in the battle.

Perumal, chief minister of the province, said 307 people were killed in what he said was a conflict with local provoked by the military working in concert with another Tamil guerrilla group.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne yesterday blamed Perumal for the attacks which he said were launched on the police stations.



Policeman a victim

Residents carry the body of a policeman killed in an attack in Karativu, eastern Sri Lanka. At least 43 policemen were killed when an illegal Tamil army attacked five eastern police posts on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajiv dismisses polls

\$295m programme to help women

(Continued from Page 1)

span the ideological spectrum.

But a violent separatist movement still rages in the northern Sikh-dominated state of Punjab, where more than 1,600 people have been killed this year. Muslim-Hindu riots in other northern states have claimed another 600 lives.

Asked if he would have any qualms about sitting on the opposition benches if the Congress lost, Rajiv said, "I don't think we will have to do that."

According to Rajiv, the rising prices were not a major factor in the elections. "The question is who can keep the country together." One of the recurring themes in Rajiv's election campaign has been his doubts about the opposition's ability to provide a stable government to the country.

To another question, Rajiv opined that the allegations of a personal nature against him would have no bearings on his party's fortunes in the elections. He denied having played the "Hindu card" when he promised to usher in "Ram Rajya" in the country, explaining that he used the term to mean a situation in which all communities could live together in harmony.

According to Rajiv, he discovered tremendous support for his government's programme during the campaign. There was appreciation for the efforts to fight terrorism and communalism, he said.

Answering criticism that his government's economic policies were benefiting the rich and the middle class, he said people who made such charges did not know what was happening at the grassroots level.

Among other things, he said, the number of people below the



A young Indian boy plays with a snake in Morbund. The village, home of about 500 snake charmers has decided against supporting Congress (I) Party, and announced their intentions of voting for the opposition. (Reuters wirephoto)

poverty line had dropped from 51 per cent to one third of the population during his tenure.

The new programme announced by Rajiv today aims at making women more aware of their rights and involve them more in the development process.

There is provision for income and employment generating schemes for them.

Rajiv hoped that the new scheme would cut down red-tapism and ensure that most of the resources deployed would actually reach the beneficiaries. Nearly two-thirds were now lost in establishment and other costs, he pointed out.

The weekly news magazine Sunday said voters appear to have serious doubts about Rajiv's government. Its poll of 11,500 voters indicated the Congress would win only 180 to 215 seats.

Both magazines said allegations of government corruption has been the key factor in Congress' declining popularity.

The opposition's main battle cry stems from accusations by Indian newspapers that highly placed Indians received up to \$50 million in kickbacks from the Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors to obtain a \$1.4-billion contract to provide artillery guns for the Indian Army. Rajiv denies the allegations.

"While corruption has always been an important factor in the voters' mind, it has so far not been an issue affecting their voting behaviour — all parties have been regarded as equally corrupt. This time, the voter clearly sees one side — and particularly one leader, V.P. Singh — as more capable of controlling corruption," India Today said.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, once a loyal supporter and now bitter rival of Rajiv, heads the new coalition, which some doubt can endure because it spans the ideological spectrum.

The strain of a campaign trail which has taken Rajiv from India's deep south to Calcutta in the east to the desert state of Rajasthan in the west within a few days was evident when he arrived yesterday in New Delhi for a late night rally.

His voice was hoarse and at one point he needed an aide to remind him of his Congress Party's seven candidates in the Delhi area.

"What were those seven names?" he asked, to laughter from the audience.

Heavy Gandhi defeat likely

NEW DELHI, Nov 19, (Reuters): A new opinion poll predicted today that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would slump to a heavy defeat when the world's biggest democracy votes this week.

The poll, for India Today magazine, said Rajiv's Congress Party would win only 195 seats in the 545-member Parliament in elections starting on Wednesday.

It won 415 seats in the last elections in 1984, riding on a wave of sympathy after the assassination of Rajiv's mother and predecessor, Indira.

Congress has won all but one of India's eight elections since independence from Britain in 1947.

The findings of the India Today poll of nearly 11,000 people by Marketing and Research Group, the country's leading pollsters, conflicted sharply with Congress' own assessment of its prospects.

The poll, whose margin of error was about three per cent, said Congress would win just 28 seats in the crucial north, where it won 114 in 1984.

"The Indian electorate is voting for change. The poll suggests that over 60 per cent of the electorate wants a change," it said.

But a senior party official said reports from its own people in the Hindi-speaking northern heartland showed a marked swing to Congress over the last three days. "We will win more than 300 seats. Our people are absolutely definite and morale is high," the official said.

The survey for India Today was the second piece of bad poll news for Rajiv in four days.

A poll in the magazine Sunday said Congress could hope for no more than 240 seats. It said a more likely figure was 215 and it could go as low as 180.

India Today's poll also left open the possibility of a swing to Congress over the last few days before the Nov 22, 24 and 26 elections with the uncommitted among India's 498 million voters deciding against an opposition alliance.

"The one factor that will haunt (the opposition's) prospects right up to polling day is the widespread belief that if they were to form a government, it would eventually collapse," India Today said.

"This belief could result in floating or undecided voters veering to the Congress on election day."

It said corruption charges against Congress were the biggest issue but that a recent surge of Hindu-Muslim violence produced confusion that could result in last minute voting changes.

Hundreds of people have died in a dispute over a holy site claimed by both faiths in the key northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Rajiv went today to Uttar Pradesh, which has 82 seats, to woo Muslim voters alienated by the dispute and tell people an opposition government would fall apart.

Extremists shot dead

DHAKA, Nov 19, (Reuters): Police shot dead two people during a gunfight in northern Bangladesh with an underground extremist group advocating the elimination of rich people, officials said today.

They said police also arrested six activists of the Sarbaraha (have-nots) Party and seized arms and ammunition from their hideout in Sirajganj district.

Police detained nearly 400 members of the ultra-left organisation in August. Police blame the group for more than 200 killings in the past two years.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WORDS are the only things that last forever — William Hazlitt, English writer (1778-1830).

Bid to improve image

Summit crowns Malta's efforts

VALLETTA, (Reuters): Next month's superpower summit in Malta crowns the island nation's efforts to mend fences with Washington and draw back from what was seen widely as an over-intimate relationship with Libya.

The 350,000 population is looking forward with relief to the seaboard summit between President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that will put the finishing touches to a transformation of Malta's international image.

Not least of them will be Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami who has piloted Malta away from damaging association with Libya and sharply improved relations with Washington.

"These are very exciting times we are living through. We are centre stage," he told Reuters.

"It would require a hell of a lot of money for us to be doing the public relations exercise that we are getting for free through this summit. We are very definitely on the map now," he said with a smile.

Apart from the publicity spinoffs, the fact that the summit is being held here at all reflects Fenech Adami's success in slowly restoring good relations with the West and particularly with Washington.

"Relations with the United States have changed radically. Now it is a very good relationship that we have," he said.

Officials and diplomats concur that the United States' agreement to stage the summit on two warships off Malta's coast would have been unthinkable only three years ago.

Then relations between Washington and Valletta were at rock bottom after Labour Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici warned Col Muammar Khaddafi of an imminent US air raid in retaliation for Tripoli's alleged support for terrorism.

Under Labour rule ties with Libya, only 320 kms (200 miles) to the south, were so close that Arabic was a university entry requirement and Libyan influence was visible everywhere.

Since the Nationalist Party government took over in May 1987 the relationship with Tripoli has remained good but been considerably scaled down as the former British colony cultivated its European vocation.

As if to underline the change of emphasis, Fenech Adami told Reuters that before the December 2-3 summit he would end a close military agreement with Libya that contributed to strained relations with Washington.

But he stressed Malta's continuing non-aligned stance and said "the fact of geography" obliged it to maintain good relations with neighbouring Mediterranean countries including Libya, which is an important trading partner.

An estimated 5,000 jobs — a tenth of the workforce — depends on Libyan trade or investments and Libya is one of the few areas with which Malta has a favourable trade balance.

Nevertheless 80 per cent of its trade overall is with the West and Malta plans to apply for membership of the European Economic Community (EEC) next year.

Fenech Adami's commitment to cultivating a European, Western image has become increasingly clear.

"There is no doubt as to which direction the Maltese ship is sailing. She's sailing very definitely westward," he said.

One EEC diplomat said Fenech Adami's more openly-stated pro-Western stance may have been motivated by a desire to boost Malta's chances of a successful application for community entry.

"Time is running out for the application. In order to soften up the 12 and get us on its side they hope the United States will lean on us to let Malta in," he said.

There would indeed be strategic advantages for Washington in cementing Malta into a westward looking stance and on its side Valletta is keen to overcome residual US difference and to increase the low-key American investment presence here.

The choice of the summit venue, in a quiet bay off Malta's southern coast, is a vote of confidence too by both superpowers in Valletta's ability to organise such a meeting and in the security situation here, despite the proximity of Libya and frequent allegations that it harbours guerrillas.

Fenech Adami says he is confident nothing "devious" will happen but diplomats say both US and Soviet security men will be on the island in force, backed by an array of military and technical equipment.

So far preparations are intense but low key and there are few signs that the meeting will happen in less than two weeks.

The bay where the leaders will meet remains quiet in the tourist low season with brightly painted fishing boats bobbing on the water.

While organisers, using much of the framework set up in September for celebrations of the 25th anniversary of independence, seem quietly confident that they will not be crushed by a media steamroller which officials say is likely to number up to 2,000 journalists.

An imposing yellow-stone building, constructed in the 16th century by the Crusading Knights of Malta, who turned the island into a bastion against the Ottoman Turks, is being rapidly converted into a huge press centre.

Hotel rooms all over the island are scarce and US television networks have already arrived in force. Workmen are repairing and sprucing up roads round Valletta.

Fenech Adami said he welcomed the summit "with open arms" and added: "We feel that we are again centre stage while history is being enacted. We are pleased that in a small way we are contributing to this momentous event," he said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1616 — Cardinal Richelieu becomes France's minister of state for foreign affairs and war.
- 1780 — Britain declares war on Holland.
- 1818 — Simon Bolivar formally declares Venezuela independent of Spain.
- 1873 — Rival cities of Buda and Pest are united to form capital of Hungary.
- 1901 — Second Hay-Pauncefote Treaty provides for construction of Panama Canal by United States.
- 1917 — Ukrainian republic is proclaimed.
- 1924 — Kurdish revolt in Turkey is crushed.
- 1945 — Accused Nazi World War II criminals go on trial in Nuremberg, Germany.
- 1947 — England's Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten are married in London's Westminster Abbey.
- 1959 — Britain, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Sweden meet to form European free trade association.
- 1970 — Majority in UN General Assembly votes to give China a seat, but two-thirds majority required for admission is not met; death toll is put at more than 100 in typhoon that sweeps Philippines.
- 1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat tells Israeli parliament in occupied Jerusalem that Egypt seeks peace with justice. He is accused by Palestine Liberation Organisation of humiliating surrender.
- 1986 — Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini rules out any rapprochement with United States.
- 1987 — Investigating police say arson is unlikely in London subway fire that took 30 lives.
- 1988 — Jordan's King Hussein says Palestine Liberation Organisation has taken satisfactory steps for participating in Middle East peace talks.

The good and real life

East Germans gawk at Bonn's economic miracle

EAST BERLIN, (AP): Uwe Doering and his girlfriend Gabi went to West Berlin last weekend to see what's widely promoted as "the good life," then returned home for what they regard as the real thing.

Life for Uwe Doering.

"When we saw all the beautiful things in the West they were very alluring," said Gabi, who declined to give her surname, in a recent interview. "But that doesn't mean we should leave home."

Uwe, Gabi and their 13-month-old son Tom were among the 99 per cent of East German visitors to the West who have gawked at the West German economic miracle in the past week, and then gone back home.

While the new travel freedom and the political reforms in East Germany dazzle the couple, their priorities are home, family and the security of staying put.

For the 26-year-old plumber at the house of ministries, who joined the Communist Party as an idealistic teen-ager, politics has taken a back seat to economic considerations.

Despite the cascade of changes in their country, and last Saturday's visit to West Berlin, the biggest in their lives is next week's move into a new three-bedroom apartment.

For both of them, the new apartment is a symbol of what's right with East Germany, a caring social system that they trust to take care of them with guaranteed jobs and housing.

"People in West Berlin are jobless, on the dole," said Uwe, sprawled on the sofa as he sipped a beer.

"Even though they get money, I wouldn't want my family to live in a hotel, or a hole in the wall, if I can have a three-bedroom apartment here and a job."

Uwe's job has gotten more hurried since the recent wave of East German emigration through other East bloc nations.

"We have so much work to do," he said, "there's so many people who left for the West that we have to help out at the Academy of Arts."

The couple spoke through an interpreter at their one-bedroom apartment in Prenzlauerberg, a working-class section of East Berlin.

Uwe saved all his pay from three years' Army service, which enabled them to buy the television, stereo and the three-piece contoured suite of furniture which fill half their 12-foot-square (4-metre-square) living room.

"I could afford the television because I sold my motorcycle," Uwe joked. "Three people don't fit on a motorbike."

Last year, when he became a family man, Uwe bought a 1968 East German-made Trabant, which both he and Gabi drive.

Now the apartment is too small, what with one-year-old Tom's playpen and toys. Tom sleeps in a crib at the foot of his parents' bed in their cramped 5-by-12-foot (1.5 by 3.5 metre) bedroom.

Other signs of prosperity jammed into their third-floor walkup apartment include a washing machine, over-sized refrigerator, food processor and electric bread slicer.

They count themselves lucky that they were able to get a new apartment allocation from the government in just a year. Even at 26, Uwe remembers when life was different.

"I came to Berlin in 1970 with my family," he said with a grimace. "At that time we were four people living in a one-room apartment. It was a terrible time."

Uwe and Gabi openly admit to playing the com-



A family from Magdeburg, East Germany, court their leftover money, after a shopping spree in the border town of Helmstedt. (Reuters wirephoto)

unist system for their benefit and don't think another system would be as good to them.

Now Gabi is looking for a croche, or a day-care centre, for Tom. Until she finds one, "I get 700 marks (\$35) a month for doing nothing," she said.

"It's easier to get a croche when you're an unmarried mother," she said. "In that way the GDR (German Democratic Republic) is really a socialist state. They take care of unmarried mothers."

Lebanon faces long power struggle

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Lebanon's power struggle will last for months even if its new president succeeds in forming a credible unity cabinet, diplomats and political analysts say.

Two weeks after taking office, Rene Muawad spent Sunday holding what one newspaper called last-chance talks with Christian and Muslim politicians in the northern town of Ehden.

Muawad, acclaimed by the world but reviled by many fellow Christians as a pro-Syrian collaborator, is striving to form a national reconciliation cabinet as part of an Arab-sponsored peace pact approved by Parliament the day it elected him.

Whatever the outcome, Maronite army chief Michel Aoun — assured of solid grassroots Christian support and the loyalties of his troops — will not be budged easily from the presidential palace, in east Beirut, or the one-quarter of the country he controls.

And reuniting a people torn apart by 14 years of war may take decades, analysts believe.

"The risk for Muawad is that the longer the situation goes on, the less credible it all looks," said a diplomat. "As time goes on, it all plays into Aoun's hands and proves that Taif will not work," he added referring to the Saudi resort where deputies debated the Arab League's Lebanon peace plan.

Before, we had one Maronite ruling us. Now we have two," said one resident of Muslim west Beirut. Aoun says Syria will swallow Lebanon if the peace pact initially approved by Christian and Muslim deputies in Saudi Arabia, is implemented. "We refuse the example of the wolf and the lamb," he told a news conference.

The pact retains the traditional system of allocating posts by religion but switches power from the Christian president to a Muslim-led cabinet. It fails to set a date for the withdrawal of 33,000 Syrian troops from the country.

The power struggle began in September 1988, when Aoun's administration and a rival Syrian-backed Muslim-led cabinet both claimed legitimacy after Parliament failed to elect a president.

Aoun began a six-month "liberation war" in March to expel foreign forces and said this was his only goal. Muslim opponents call him "Napoleon Aoun" and accuse him of presidential ambitions.

In a gesture emphasising Aoun's international isolation, US Ambassador John McCarthy returned to Lebanon on Saturday to present his credentials to Muawad. The Americans quit their embassy in Christian east Beirut in September because of fears for their safety.

Professing indifference to governments, Aoun said he would take his case to the world's people. Meanwhile, say diplomats and journalists, he appears increasingly relaxed and confident.

"Muawad is under great pressure to push ahead, but how?" a diplomat said. "If Muawad asked the Syrians to help him (militarily), that's the end of his presidency. I don't take the idea of military pressure too seriously."

"Iraqi arms supplies have stopped but Aoun probably has enough to last him for immediate purposes."

Signs of a possible fiscal blockade emerged when East Beirut bankers accused the Central Bank in the

west of cutting off funds to its branch at Jounieh in the Christian enclave.

Central Bank sources said Aoun caused the bank-note shortage by withholding tax money collected in the enclave from Jounieh.

How could Muawad bring Aoun to heel? "I think the new government will start exerting political and financial pressure and take administrative measures," said Marwan Hemady, political adviser to Druze chief Walid Jumblatt.

However, Aoun controls assets west Beirut needs, such as water and electricity supplies, grain silos and a major port.

Muawad and his Prime Minister Selim Hoss are counting on George Saadeh, president of the Christian Phalange Party, to give their cabinet some claim to a broad base. Saadeh has not announced a decision and opinions differ on his importance.

"A unity government all depends on whether the Phalange can go along with national unity or bend to Aoun's pressure," said Hemady. "With an internationally recognised president, Aoun is in a much weaker position now."

But a diplomat said Saadeh's support would in itself not make a Muawad government credible.

"Muawad was undermined by the circumstances of his election — it was pre-cooked some months in advance. This exercise has done no one any good, least of all Muawad."

Syria lobbied openly for Muawad before the poll. Samir Geagea, leader of the 10,000-strong Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia which fought against Aoun's troops in February, is apparently sticking with Aoun at present.

Art Buchwald

US ex-presidents up for sale?

A VERY well-dressed and extremely polite Japanese businessman came to see me in my office. He explained that he was on a search mission on behalf of the Fuji Wool Electronic Company. "I would like to buy an ex-president of the United States," he informed me, "and I thought that with your background in the Orient, you could help."

I was indignant. "Our American presidents are not for sale."

"Mr Reagan just visited our country for \$2 million."

"That amount was for the president's expenses and Nancy's wardrobe," I told him. "It was not to buy Reagan's unqualified endorsement of your country."

"He said some very nice things about Japan, including the fact that we could make better motion pictures in Hollywood than the Americans."

I reminded him, "That's only after the Sony people announced that they were going to start production on 'Bedtime for Bonanzai.' The president has always been an admirer of Japanese movies. He saw 'Tora, Tora, Tora' three times."

"You're wandering from the problem," my visitor chided. "The company which brought Reagan over is our biggest competitor. We have lost face because they sponsored him. We must find a person with the same stature, influence and cheerfulness as President Reagan. Do you have any suggestions?"

"We have three other living ex-presidents, but I'm not sure that any of them would go to Japan for a lousy 2 million bucks. It's not a lot of money for an American ex-president."

"Then why did Reagan do it?"

"I'm positive it wasn't for the dough. Perhaps his astrologer suggested that it was an auspicious time to travel. What the Japanese have to understand about our presidents is that they cannot be purchased like the Empire State Building or a shopping mall outside of Pittsburgh."

"Then why did the president accept the money?" he persevered.

I replied, "If he hadn't, somebody else would have. Reagan did not sell out. He only said out loud what most Americans think — that the Japanese are

wonderful people, they make great products, and we're glad that they won the war."

"Did it ever occur to you," he asked, "that President Reagan did himself harm by allowing the Fujisanki Communications Group to take him over to Japan? As a competitor, we consider it a great insult to the Japanese nation that he would sleep on Fujisanki's futons. Reagan is president to all the Japanese people and not just to one communications outfit."

I told him, "If what you say is true, Reagan is a Japanese problem, not an American one."

"Well, who would you recommend we sign up?"

"What about Orin Roberts, the TV evangelist?"

"Why Orin Roberts?"

"He needs the money."

"No, we want someone more presidential."

"How about Donald Trump? He is not an ex-president, but he likes Japan very much and has announced that he is in the process of buying it."

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Letters to the Editor

Down memory lane

SIR: It was not just an ordinary audio experience. The musical evening at the Indian Arts Circle in fond remembrance of Hemant Kumar was a close experience of a different kind. It revealed how powerful an intoxicant nostalgia could be.

It also brought home to many of us the fact that good creative Indian film music is forever. Tired of today's trite lyrics and the emptiness of oversynthesised pop, the sophisticated audience which came over that evening just closed their eyes and listened to their past favourites. The haunting songs brought back memories of a time when the living was easier and the music less synthetic.

Those were the songs of pleasure, pain and poignancy — the way they were. "I used to sing these songs in school" whispered a lady sitting by my side. And her teenage son added: "The appeal of some of these old forgotten hits still give me goosebumps." Music of Hemant Kumar seemed to have bridged a generation gap that evening at least.

The vast crowd of nostalgia-lovers listened to the charged vocal energy of Shahnaz Karim, the quiet passion of Girija Radhakrishnan, the irresistible lilt of Dr Shiva and the seductive appeal of Ambica while they rendered all time greats that were sung and composed by Hemant Kumar.

Selection of singers exhibited a unique sense of cultural commonality. The only jarring note in the performance was that of the percussion and some accompanying instruments striking occasionally an overpitch and drowning the voice of the singers.

The narration and the narrator, however, fitted well into this superb musical experience. As regards selection of songs, there were seemingly notable omissions — the number that Naushad had asked Hemant to render in "Shabab" and the song that V. Shantaram had pictured in "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Basie" to Hemant's resonating bass voice, were not there.

Unity being the theme of this solemn programme, "Aao Bachhon Tumhe Dikhaye" (Jhanak Jhanak K) song from "Jagriti" which was composed by the maestro would have heightened the mood as well as the theme.

The organisers presented Hemant as a singer but forgot to bring to the stage consummate masterpieces of the times he composed for super-hit films like "Bees Saal Baad", "Kohra", "Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam", "Shaap Mochar", "Saptapadi", etc.

About Indian music, Will Durant, the world-famous thinker and authority on art had said, "Listening to music of India is an art in itself, to cultivate which requires a long training of the ear and the soul."

The Indian Arts Circle would do well for those interested in the cause of real Indian culture here to present more of such qualitative programmes so that our ears and the souls could be trained to appreciate the pure sensuous joy that is Indian music. Kudos to Sunny Mathews, Himanshu Bhowmick and the Bengali Cultural Society for a good beginning.

Rita Dalbhekar, Sharada

Please clarify

SIR: In spite of rejection by some Gulf countries, Kuwait continues to buy Australian sheep and allows its sale in the local market. Many consumers have aversion to this meat although this is sold with municipality seal. I would like to know some authorities or experts from research institutions like the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to give their recommendations and the basis for allowing this meat to be sold in Kuwait market.

Secondly, are all brands of eggs (local and imported) sold here free from salmonella?

Some countries use injections on chicken and if such chicken is consumed there can be a kidney failure. This seems to be a serious matter as many in Kuwait consume frozen chicken from Denmark and Brazil. If these two varieties are harmful, I might change over to local chicken since it was mentioned in the newspapers that local chickens are not injected for fattening.

Since the above things seem important, I request some expert to give his findings without being biased due to any commercial reason. If request the Kuwaiti authorities to enlighten the public about this or say at least that their stamps guarantee freedom from any of the above disease in the meat.

A.C. Rajan, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the edition process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"We are a socialist state and we want to remain a socialist state. With all the reforms we have in mind, our faithfulness to them (Warsaw Pact) alliance is unquestionable. Also not our friendship to the other socialist countries. The consensus is that nobody questions socialism in East Germany." — Egon Krenz to Cable News Network.

"I think we have a highly competitive team and I expect us to have a great tournament. Qualifying for the finals was the greatest moment in my sporting career." — Spanish Soccer Federation president Jose Maria Villar hoping the best for Spain in the World Cup.

"Now is the start of a new era. Now is when we have to show our mettle. Now we have to be a competitive team, a team that permanently lives among the world's elite — that walks with the giants." — Spanish national team manager Luis Suarez saying his team will match powers like West Germany, Italy and Brazil in the World Cup.

"Of course, I am a good Christian, as you know. Therefore, I forgive. And secondly, if there were no adversaries, I wouldn't exist, as well. Ladies and gentlemen, I still live in a normal, civilised country. I... would never get a Nobel prize. So I have gained something because of other people's stupidity." — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa on how he deals with his former enemies.

"They only talk about me having many privileges. They only privilege I have is that my working day is longer than 24 hours. I don't own anything except what is within my own four walls." — East German Communist Party boss Egon Krenz answering questions on rumours about himself.

MIDEAST

Foreign navies to remain in Gulf

MANAMA, Nov 19, (AP) A British warship commander said today foreign navies will remain in the Gulf to protect merchant vessels in the waterway in the absence of a peace settlement between Iran and Iraq after a UN-brokered ceasefire.

"It's not as tense as last year, and it's all very routine," said Cmdr. Paul D. Stone, of Hampshire. "But the situation is still unstable as there's no lasting peace."

Stone, commander of the guided missile destroyer HMS Manchester, warned: "It doesn't take much to start an incident."

He spoke to a group of reporters who visited the Manchester while on a port call to Bahrain.

The vessel is part of four-unit Armilla patrol - three warships and a navy tanker - that Britain maintains in the Gulf waters.

Britain and other western powers that beelined up their military presence in the waterway at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, reduced the number of their vessels in the region after the ceasefire which took hold on Aug 20, 1988, halting eight years of hostilities.

But peace negotiations launched after the truce have made no progress toward a permanent settlement of the conflict.

The Soviet Union had some seven to nine units in the waterway before the ceasefire, and Stone said they were now down to "about three or four warships and a couple of support ships at any time."

The navy units escorted merchant vessels flying their national flags at the peak of the Iran-Iraq hostilities to protect them against the fallout of the war on the waterway.

PLO sends reply on talks

TUNIS, Nov 19, (Reuters) The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sent an answer for Washington today on US proposals for direct Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo, a PLO official said.

Khaled Al Hassan told Reuters the PLO, after several days of debate on US clarifications it received earlier, sent its response to the Egyptian government for transmission to the United States.

Asked what it contained, he said "We always take a positive position but we reject the negative attitude of others."

The PLO has said that it must choose the Palestinian delegation to the proposed meeting in Cairo and it asked the United States for assurances that Washington was committed to a Middle East settlement in line with its official policy.

The United States advocates Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories according to UN resolutions 242 and 338.

The text of Washington's original answer to the PLO has not been published but Palestinian leaders said it was vague.

Israel says it must have the right to vet the Palestinian delegation and wants to restrict the agenda of its plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The PLO says the agenda should be open to all topics.

Khaled Al Hassan was a member of the small group which drafted the final PLO position.

'Bright Star' war games end in Egypt

CAIRO, Nov 19, (AP) A week of joint military exercises between US and Egyptian forces have ended and fulfilled their aim, the Middle East News Agency reported yesterday.

In an unattributed report, the agency said the military exercises, dubbed "Bright Star," fulfilled their planned aim within the Egyptian strategy of holding joint exercises with countries which are advanced militarily and have international fighting experience.

The Bright Star exercises were held on Nov 11-17 somewhere in Egypt. No press coverage was permitted.

"They are the fifth in a series of Bright Star war games which the two countries have held every two years since 1981."

8 in hospital after bus crash in Israel

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Nov 19, (AP) Eight West Germans remained hospitalised in northern Israel today, a day after one woman was killed and 43 other persons were injured when a tour bus carrying Christian pilgrims plunged into a ravine, a hospital spokesman said.

The West German embassy in Tel Aviv said a 608/63-4-old German woman was killed in the accident in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights.

A spokesman for the West German embassy said the pilgrims were part of a church group from Kleinostheim, a town on the border between Hesse and Bavaria. He declined to release the name of the woman who was killed.

Qaboos flays false pride

'End reluctance to do menial jobs'

DUBAI, Nov 19, (Reuters) Urging reduced reliance on foreign labour, Sultan Qaboos of Oman has told his people they must not be ashamed to take jobs they think may be beneath their dignity.

"Our people must never be ashamed to carry out... honourable and useful duties in the service of their country," the Sultan said in a national day speech in Muscat yesterday.

"It is shameful to permit false pride to provide an excuse that such work is beneath them," he said in an official translation quoted by the Oman News Agency.

Expatriates accounted for over 40 per cent of Oman's workforce in 1988, official figures show.

Many jobs in construction, manufacturing, and service industries are filled by workers from the Indian subcontinent and the Philippines, attracted by relatively high, tax free wages in the oil-producing Gulf state.

The reluctance of Omanis to take menial jobs "only denies them their role and opportunity, and perpetuates the need for foreign labour," Sultan Qaboos said. "This we cannot accept."

The Sultan has also repeatedly urged Omanis to strive for higher education standards to replace professional expatriates.

About half the population of over 1.3 million is under 15 years



Sultan Qaboos

old and 70 per cent work in agriculture, many at subsistence level, economists say.

Sultan Qaboos said companies should give young Omanis more experience in new jobs, but

that they should not replace expatriate professionals unless they could match their competence.

He said the economy was performing well.

The Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs, Qais Bin Abdulmonim Al Zawawi, was quoted as saying he expected 1990 to be a good year as long as oil prices did not fall below \$15 a barrel. They are currently around \$17.

Zawawi told the Khaleej Times newspaper in the neighbouring United Arab Emirates that Oman's economy would grow about four per cent next year in real terms.

Independent economists forecast growth of five per cent or more this year.

Egypt a partner, not a mediator

KUWAIT, Nov 19, (Associated Press) A senior Egyptian official was quoted today as saying that Egypt is not a mediator in the Palestinian crisis, but is an effective partner "within the general Arab movement for just peace."

In an interview with Al-Sayid daily, Dr. Mamdouh Al-Beltagi, the head of the public information authority, which is the governing body of the official media in Egypt, said that the 10-point plan presented by Egypt was not an initiative but a group of questions that need to be answered by the Israeli government concerning elections in the occupied territories.

He also said that the philosophy of the 10-point plan is to reject the status quo and to create a basis that can be used as a starting point for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Dr. Beltagi emphasized that the ongoing uprising of the Palestinian people is expected to continue.

On recent developments in Lebanon, the Egyptian official said that his country supports the new Lebanese President and legitimacy in their endeavor for preserving Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity.

As for the Egyptian-Libyan relations, Beltagi said "the main guarantee for the continuation of good relations is through creating a solid basis for joint interests of the two peoples."

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin today called for greater financial aid to Jewish settlements on the "conflict zone" line in the north, Golan Heights, Jordan and Arabah valley instead of building new settlements, reports from the occupied Palestinian said.

This morning Rabin's meeting with settlement representatives of the absorption agency during which they discussed difficulties encountered by the Jewish settlers.

The reports also indicated that the "Women for Peace" movement has urged all women to participate in a rally set for Dec 29 in Jerusalem to protest the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands.

Radio Israel today quoted official security sources as saying that the armed attack on an Israeli patrol last Monday, in which two soldiers were killed, was carried out by the Palestinian Fatah commando movement.

The radio quoted the unidentified source as saying they believe that it was Fatah movement that carried out the operation and not the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement as was earlier announced.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, including Fatah its main commando movement, has renounced terrorism last year but made it clear that attacks on Israeli military targets will not cease.

Israeli troops shot and wounded at least eleven Palestinians in stone-throwing clashes yesterday and yesterday's incidents resulted in death of an Arab woman, hospital officials in Jerusalem reported.

The woman, identified as 40-year-old Adiyat Unjar, was brought to Nasser hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis where she died of bleeding and stab wounds.

Palestinian reporters in Gaza said she was suspected of immoral behaviour and of providing assistance to the Israeli authorities. The military command confirmed the death and said it was under a police investigation.

The death brought to 147 the number of Palestinians murdered by their brethren on suspicion of being pro-Israeli collaborators during the 23-month uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.



McCarthy sees parade

Lebanese troops parade in a show of respect to US Ambassador John McCarthy who presented his credentials to Lebanon's new President Rene Muawad at his house in the northern village of Ehden. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sudan, rebels agree with Carter

Peace talks on Dec 1

NAIROBI, Nov 19, (AP) The Sudanese government and southern rebels have agreed to open preliminary peace talks in Nairobi on Dec 1, former US President Jimmy Carter announced today.

Carter said Sudan's military leader Lt Gen. Omar Al-Bashir, and Col. John Garang, head of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, agreed to the talks in separate meetings yesterday.

Carter met with Bashir in Khartoum last morning, then flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for an evening meeting with Garang.

Carter said both sides had agreed to meet without preconditions and would conduct their preliminary negotiations without a mediator.

Calling his announcement "very encouraging news," Carter said he hoped the negotiations would lead to more substantive talks to end the nearly seven-year-old civil war.

"There's a massive buildup of forces in the southern region, perhaps greater than we've ever seen there before," Carter said. "I suppose both sides would like to avoid massive conflict that, once started, is so hard to stop."

Carter made the announcement upon arriving in Nairobi to mediate a second round of preliminary peace talks starting tomorrow between the Ethiopian government and Eritrean rebels.

While in Addis Ababa, Carter also met with Ethiopia's president, Mengistu Haile Mariam, and said he found him "very pleased with results so far" on the talks that began in Atlanta, GA., in September.

Carter said the Sudanese government and Garang's rebel movement would each send a seven- or eight-member delegation to the Nairobi talks, each headed by a high-ranking official.

"Neither side feels it needs a mediator," Carter told a hastily called news conference. "In the main talks, I think they would need a mediator, but I would not expect to be that person."

The Nairobi talks will be the second meeting between the two sides in four months. They met in

Ethiopia for two days in August, but broke off those negotiations talks in what the rebels said was an impasse.

Both the government and Garang's rebels began observing a de facto ceasefire last April to allow a massive, UN-sponsored relief operation move more than 100,000 tons of food into southern Sudan. The operation was aimed at averting a repeat of last year's famine that claimed an estimated 250,000 lives.

But in recent weeks that ceasefire has broken down in sharp new fighting and the government in Khartoum has suspended all relief flights from neighbouring Kenya and Uganda, leaving some areas of southern Sudan still desperately short of food and other supplies.

Carter said Al-Bashir told him "it would not be possible for him to authorise further flights" as long as the situation in southern Sudan remains tense.

Garang organised his rebellion in 1983 to press the Muslim-dominated government in Khartoum to grant autonomy and economic and administrative reforms to the largely Christian and animist south.

Meanwhile, fresh battles in northern Ethiopia have eclipsed peace talks between the Marxist government and separatist rebels opening in Nairobi tomorrow.

As negotiators from Ethiopia and the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) assembled in the Kenya capital today for the talks, another rebel group said it had stormed a key garrison town in the northern Wollo province, killing 500 troops and taking 150 others prisoner.

Kombolcha is only 20 km (12 miles) east of Dessalegn, provincial capital of Wollo, and holds a strategic position on one of the main roads linking Addis Ababa with the Red Sea port of Assab and Asmara, capital of the northern Eritrean province.

The TPLF, already in control of Tigray province which has a population of 3.5 million, has in the past fought alongside EPLF rebels.

Mahdi freed from prison

Put under house arrest

KHARTOUM, Nov 19, (AP) The military government has reportedly released from prison former prime minister Sadek Al-Mahdi and other senior political leaders but has placed them under house arrest, a state-run newspaper said today.

Al-Inqaz Al-Watani newspaper said Al-Mahdi and the other political detainees "left Kober prison on Friday to their homes amid reports that they would remain under house arrest."

There was no immediate confirmation from the military government, which ousted Al-Mahdi in a coup on June 30.

Following the coup, Sudan's military ruler Lt. Col. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir disbanded all political parties and powerful trade unions and put their leaders in prison. He has repeatedly accused them of political and economic corruption and vowed to put them on trial.

Only a handful of them have been tried. The government had said it had around 30 political detainees, but informed sources said the figure was closer to 100.

Published news reports have claimed that the government has tortured Al-Mahdi and the others, both physically and mentally. They claimed that Al-Mahdi was subjected to a mock execution. But the government has denied these claims and said the political detainees were treated well and kept in air-conditioned cells.

Al-Inqaz Al-Watani newspaper said that besides Al-Mahdi, the government had released Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani, leader of Sudan's second largest party, the centrist Democratic Unionist, and Hassan Turabi, the charismatic leader of the small but powerful Muslim fundamentalist National Islamic Front.

Notably absent from the list of those released was the name of



Al-Mahdi

Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud, secretary-general of the small Communist Party. On Thursday, the informed sources said that scores of medical doctors and diplomats with "leftist leanings" had been dismissed from the civil service.

During the past month, the military government has been releasing small numbers of political detainees including former cabinet ministers.

Al-Inqaz Al-Watani newspaper said that the release was "due to the political stability" in the country following the coup.

Al-Bashir has vowed never to allow Sudan's 36 political parties to be formed again. He accused them of being the main reason for the continuation of the 6 1/2-year-old civil war and the deteriorating economy.

Last night, Sayed Ali Zaki, minister of finance, said that the price of sugar in Sudan would be raised 250 per cent. Sugar is a main staple in the Sudanese people's diets and past increases in its prices have triggered food riots.

Zaki said that the government was taking steps to increase local production.

PLO's Fatah reshuffles leadership

TUNIS, Nov 19, (Reuters) Fatah, the mainstream group in the PLO led by Yasser Arafat, has reshuffled responsibilities within its central committee but left the top posts unchanged, a Palestinian source said today.

The source said Mahmoud Abbas, in charge of national and international relations, was promoted to the post of first deputy secretary-general.

The reshuffle, agreed in Tunis this weekend, follows the election of a new 21-member central committee in August.

Arafat remains chairman and head of Fatah's military wing, while key leaders Farouk Kaddoumi and Salah Khalaf stay on as secretary-general and head of security respectively, the source said.

The main members of the new central committee are (noms de guerre in brackets): Chairman and general commander of military wing: Yasser Arafat (Abu Ammar); Security: Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad); Secretary-General: Farouk Kaddoumi (Abu Lotf); Information: Khaled Al-Hassan (Abu Said).

National and international relations: First deputy secretary-general: Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen); Social Affairs: Mrs Intissar Al-Wazir (Om Jihad); Foreign Affairs: Hani Al-Hassan; Organisation: Mohammed Ghossein (Abu Maher); Ideological mobilisation: Salim Af Zaanoun (Abu Al-Adib); Finance: Ahmed Kora (Abu Al-Ala).

Head political delegation: Tayeb Abderrahim; Second Deputy Secretary-General and deputy to security chief: Hakam Balaoui.

Military mobilisation: Sakhr Habash (Abu Nizar); Intissar Al-Wazir, Ahmed Kora, Tayeb Abderrahim, Hakam Balaoui and Sakhr Habash are new members of the committee.

Five committee members have unspecified responsibilities. They are Hayel Abdelhmid (Abu Al-Houl), Sobhi Abu Kersh (Abu Moudher), Nasser Youssef, Mohammed Jihad and Abbas Zaki.

The committee, elected on August 9 by a Fatah Congress in Tunis, also includes three residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip whose names have not been released.



Saudi minister in Cairo

Egyptian President Mubarak (right) meets Saudi Arabia's Minister of Justice Sheikh Mohammad bin Ibrahim bin Jubair in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hekmatyar sets elections condition to join interim government

ISLAMABAD, Nov 19, (Agencies) Gulbuddin Hekmatyar chief of the Hizb-e-Islami of Afghanistan said yesterday he will only join the Afghan interim government if it holds elections.

Addressing a press conference, he said that the interim government, at the time of its formation, had pledged to hold elections within six months.

Hekmatyar has been elected foreign minister of the interim government.

The seven-party alliance of Afghan mujahideen based in Pakistan had set up a Shura, to elect the interim government of Afghanistan.

The Shura, after several days of deliberations in Islamabad in February, announced the Afghan interim govern-

ment with Hekmatyar as its foreign minister.

It was also announced that the interim government would assume power in Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul's communist regime. The interim government would thereafter conduct polls for electing new Shura in independent Afghanistan within six months.

It was also stated that the new Shura would form a government in independent, sovereign and Islamic Afghanistan.

According to Hekmatyar it was then decided to hold elections within six months of forming the interim government. He said it was wrong now to state that it had been decided to hold polls only after the

fall of Kabul regime.

He slammed leadership of the interim government for going back on its word.

In the meantime, the followers of Hekmatyar also had clashed with Jamiat-Islami, a component of the interim government.

Hekmatyar said that holding of elections was not at all difficult. The elections he said would return a strong consultative Shura and this could best solve people's problems in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

He said that a new interim government should be set up following the general elections. He said the elected representatives should prepare a draft constitution for Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar said as alternative solution

a revolutionary council of military officers be set up to hold elections within six months in Afghanistan.

He called on the United States and the Soviet Union to stop arming their respective sides in Afghanistan's 11-year-old civil war.

It was the first time a major Afghan rebel leader has publicly advocated such a step.

"The superpowers must cease their intervention in Afghanistan, cease the supply of weapons," Hekmatyar told the news conference.

He said if Moscow stopped supplying the Marxist Kabul government, his men would guarantee a halt in arms supplies to the insurgents from the United States, Pakistan and other foreign countries.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Interview with Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman

Active GCC joint enterprise will create parallel to EEC

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief
Arab Times

Q: "In two months we will enter into the decade of the nineties, and three weeks later the GCC summit will be held in Muscat. Is there anything you would like to say about this?"

A: "The timing of the GCC leaders' meeting in Muscat is very important because of the existing situation in the area and other considerations."

"I believe that the results of the Muscat summit will have a special flavour, due to indications of full awareness by the GCC leaders of the advent of the nineties, which requires preparations to confront the new stage."

"In my opinion, we must seek to realise what the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd, meant when he stressed the need to further endeavour to link the interests of the people in the region."

"This task is accorded top priority, as we need to mobilise all potentials, be fully prepared and determined to confront the demands of the new stage which can only be possible through the interlinkage of the interests of our people in the region."

"This will enable us to achieve more security, stability, prosperity and better progress and this will help distribute resources evenly and practically."

"When the people in the Gulf enter into active joint enterprises, this will pave the way towards further linkage of interests, having any effort exerted at protecting or maintaining the security and stability in any of the GCC countries a joint responsibility."

"This is because the Bahraini citizens would not want Saudi interests undermined, nor would the Kuwaiti citizens feel less protective as the interests of all are at stake."

"Definitely, it is this interlinkage of interests that we need in this region, so that the peoples in the area may appreciate the fact that they share the same interests."

Q: "You are saying that there are indications that the GCC leaders are looking forward to meeting in Muscat to discuss new ideas?"

A: "Yes, indeed. The reason is that the time factor is becoming more important to us, especially because 1992 will witness the emergence of a Third World power, which is a unified Western Europe as embodied in its common market. What's more, some European countries are crawling to join this market, in the wake of political openness that has swept through them."

"To strengthen the GCC states through an interlinkage of interests increases the power of the people in these countries, and to implement a policy of openness between these will create a parallel power that will enable our countries to move forward with vim and confidence, particularly since this could not lead to separation between the GCC and world economy where the benefit is reciprocal."

"If the six Gulf states should combine to consolidate the shared interests of their people, they will be able to bolster their combination and give an example of a co-operative and interacting organisation for other Arab countries to follow suit through the formation of similar organisations or entities to strengthen mutual co-operation and pave the way for setting up a national market for industrialisation and consumption."

"I would like to say that we have to co-ordinate our efforts to be able to actively exploit our markets. Our industries should be based on accurate studies to

accommodate all our national needs, taking into consideration the existing situation in the Gulf market. Consequently, industries should not pursue competitive policies directed against each other, because this would only undermine their vigour and make them lose the role which they initially set out to play."

"I say we must co-ordinate our efforts to be able to set up industries, construct houses and start services, such as banking and financial services. Even giant companies must co-ordinate their efforts, such as civil aviation carriers and all similar public services. This is because our target is to enable GCC citizens to move about freely, enjoying the freedom made available to them, living where they will, working at what they wish and relishing a situation of utter openness."

"The people of East Berlin have torn down the wall separating them from the Western sector of the city, and the Gulf states leave no illusory barriers between them."

"Even expatriates must be able to enjoy the privileges of the new situation by being able to have easy access to the countries in the region so long as they carried official residence permits. At the same time efforts must continue to further control the security situation against any potential dangers."

Q: "What do the events currently happening in the Eastern bloc in Europe mean to our Arab world, and specifically to the people in the Gulf and Arab peninsula?"

A: "It is a real virtue when man discovers that he has made a mistake and climbs down, or when he realises that the road he has taken was actually the wrong one, and decides to change his course."

"It has been proved that the political ideologies applied in that part of Europe have failed to bring prosperity to the people. We say this by way of commenting on the press coverage of these events in the countries involved, or even the words of the leaders of these countries. They admitted that their ideological calculations were far from accurate."

"The ideologies pursued in our region used to be described as backward, and that our countries were consequently backward."

"However, our countries were following a line of accurate calculations, and pursuing a political course that met with their satisfaction. Time has shown that the line pursued by our countries and the related ideologies were wisely conceived, and that they enabled us to provide our people with prosperity and stability; away from political hypocrisy."

"The events in the Eastern bloc came to further consolidate our trust in our systems, and entrust them with new top-priority burdens. This underscores the need for further consolidation of stability, and this would be easier to achieve by interlinking the interests of our people. Thus, the people will enjoy the resulting state of prosperity and put in joint efforts to protect their interests and privileges."

"The world is witnessing many changes. Political tension is not the same as it was ten years ago, and the world powers are finding common grounds to meet, negotiate, and fulfill their interests despite the existing differences in their individual social, political and ideological spheres."

"They are now more inclined to satisfy their interests, regardless of their different political strategies. This is evident from the continued meetings and



Sheikh Khalifa ... more security, stability and progress.

growing cordiality between the Soviet and US leaderships, something which never existed ten years before."

Q: "Do you think that the Gulf is no longer a hot bed of tension?"

A: "The tense situation has ended. However, there may still be very small beds of tension, but these too are bound to disappear."

"This is because the Iraq-Iran war is over, as we know, ushering in a new phase of consequential dimension and new burdens. Hence the importance of the Muscat summit where we can utilise the current stage of tranquillity and peace and endeavour to maintain, protect and reconsider our early calculations in order to adapt them to the needs of the current situation."

"In my view, the most important thing that we wish to consolidate is the existing relations between the GCC countries, thereby to immunise the GCC bloc against penetration by any foreign or international party counting on differences of opinion or stance, and to confront them with an unanimous view and a unified stance."

"The riches of this area are profuse and all that is needed is perfect co-ordination between the existing systems, whereby it would be possible to better utilise all the riches of the area, and make it possible for all people to benefit from this process unhampered by unhealthy sensitivities."

Q: "What about the current economic situation in the area, now that the years of recession have ended?"

A: "Things are looking up. We have been noticing signs of better economic performance in the region."

"We feel it here in Bahrain, despite the comparatively small area of our country."

"Nevertheless, the situation is getting better, more stable and progressive, particularly as the previous years had given rise to new concepts in the field of public spending, handling revenues and national incomes."

"The countries in the region had been able during the oil boom to finalise their infrastructural programmes, such as roads, communications, health, education and other important public services, of which the government is the main financier."

"And now the time has come when the private sector must play a role in this sphere, which had to suffer during the Iraq-Iran war as a result of unfavourable conditions in the international money markets and mounting tension in other areas."

"Now things have improved and revenues of the whole region have improved, some through wise foreign investments, as in

the case of Kuwait, and others through their national resources, developed industries, and agricultural and mineral resources, as in Saudi Arabia."

"Economic performance has improved and only lacks the solid co-ordination needed to become one unity open to all people in the region."

"In such a system, strong ones can help the weak and thus through such a linking of interests, we will find the people themselves keen to protect security matters and strengthen the economic performance which can raise the local markets to the international level. The fact that industrial products of some Gulf countries began competing in world markets, is evidence of this."

Q: "What about the economic position in Bahrain?"

A: "Bahrain's economy is certainly improving and we can feel that."

"Bahrain has recently hosted many economic conferences and meetings, and these are indications of the improving economy. This could be a result of the improvement in the whole region and the world markets after tension centres in the world and other crises have subsided."

"Our resources in Bahrain are limited and not the same as resources available in other Gulf states. Through linking our interests together, we will be able to benefit from many opportunities and our brothers in the region can similarly utilise opportunities available in Bahrain."

"It should be realised that whenever the economy improves and prosperity increases, stability and security are achieved."

"The six GCC states are certainly interested in achieving stability in order to close any gap that some people with vested interests may penetrate through to harm this Gulf alliance which attracted world attention."

"Thus, our economy is improving and we have many opportunities that we can utilise, specially tourist facilities in the country."

"We are currently trying to utilise such opportunities and I have asked the Interior Minister to adopt more flexible measures in welcoming tourists from states in the region, particularly residents."

"We want to facilitate freedom of travel to Bahrain. We wanted to implement this long ago, but we opted to delay it a little until the security situations became more stable and at present we feel that things are comfortable."

Q: "What about Lebanese affairs, has peace been established there?"

Has Saudi Arabia succeeded in keeping the threat of civil war away from Lebanon through the Taif meetings?"

A: "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has put in all his weight with the aim of arriving at positive results at Taif meetings."

"I know that he twice postponed his official visit to the US in order to follow personally the solution of the Lebanese crisis, in his capacity as a member of the three-man Arab committee assigned by the Arab Summit to find a solution for the Lebanese crisis. The point arrived at through the Taif meetings, would not have been achieved without the important role played by Saudi Arabia in this issue."

"I believe that the results achieved by King Fahd in this context were surprising."

"All the reports had indicated that it was difficult for any one to be involved in the Lebanese crisis and come out nearer to what actually happened, particularly by electing a president, parliament speaker and asking a man to form a cabinet."

"This has certainly taken the Lebanese crisis to the point that keeps it away from any threat of civil war."

"Naturally, the effects of a 15-year old civil war are expected to continue for some time. But it's important that now there is a president and a state in Lebanon. We shouldn't fear the effects of the civil war as peace will prevail."

"On this occasion, we should thank King Fahd for the efforts he exerted for the sake of saving Lebanon, after it reached a difficult deadlock and was considered, before Taif, as the most difficult crisis."

Q: "Do you think it's high time to restore relations between the states of the region and Iran?"

A: "Iran is showing a desire for restoring relations with states in the region. But before that, any international or external side must understand that when they knock at the doors of this region, they will hear only one answer: peace and people similar in thinking. This is in order to make them realise that they can't enter through windows and should come through the proper way, the main gate. Such an arrangement can be provided only through the unified decision of the GCC states."

"We must have relations with Iran, but it's important to feel comfortable towards any co-operation and make goodwill prevail. The fact that no one wants to interfere in internal affairs of others should be emphasised. Relations should be good."

"Visits with Iran are exchanged by officials in some states in the region. Iran has been showing friendly gestures, and we have been replying with the same."

"It's important that good intentions should be shown clearly."

"In the end, geographic location compels us to have friendly relations with our neighbours."

Q: "What are the main concerns of Bahrain?"

A: "Our concerns are to achieve more development. We want more production of electricity and water and more construction in the infrastructure. We want all these services to reach the people at reasonable prices."

"All these will be available when our national revenues improve and economic performance develop."

"As I said earlier, the economy is improving, but more openness among the GCC states will certainly increase Bahraini national revenues, and will reflect on the Bahraini citizen."



Amr receives Hammadi

Iraq's Deputy Premier Saadoun Hammadi arrived here yesterday and immediately went into an audience with HH the Amir. During the audience, attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber, Hammadi handed HH the Amir a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

KD30 child allowance endorsed by ministers

KUWAIT, Nov 19, (Kuna): The Cabinet held its weekly meeting today chaired by HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah during which a number of domestic issues were discussed.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed told reporters that the ministers endorsed an Amiri wish to allocate child allowance for government employees after retirement.

The decision, which was referred urgently to the Amir Diwan for final approval, allocates KD 30 monthly for each child born to a retired government civil servant. Rashed said, adding that the Cabinet expressed appreciation for this noble initiative which reflects HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier's keenness on citizens' interests.

The Crown Prince then briefed the cabinet on a recent meeting for the joint work team assigned to review the country's economic situation and measures for its improvement.

Proposals

The team is to table its proposals in this regard early next month prior to inviting government and private sectors representatives to discussing them and tabling the final speculation with the cabinet for endorsement and application, the state minister elaborated.

The Crown Prince also informed the cabinet on the discussions of the first meeting of the Higher Council for Governorates Affairs that was chaired by HH last week, he added.

The state minister said the cabinet then approved a ministerial decision by the information minister forming a permanent higher committee on celebrations of national occasions to be headed by the minister and represented by various concerned parties.

The ministers of justice and legal affairs, education and social affairs and labour presented reports on various conferences which they recently attended, Rashed went on.

Oil and gas

The state minister said Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi briefed the cabinet on the recent visit to Kuwait of Soviet minister of construction of oil and gas industry in addition to his visits to Saudi Arabia and Iraq during which he handed Amir messages to both leaders King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and President Saddam Hussein on bilateral relations and co-ordinating stands particularly in oil fields.

Human factor blamed for increase in divorce

11.6 pc Kuwaiti females marry before 15

By Bassem Al Qasas

A MANIFOLD increase in divorce cases in Kuwaiti society during the last 20 years has forced a number of social specialists to conduct studies on this phenomenon and its negative reflection on society.

According to statistics carried out by the Ministry of Planning, the number of marriage contracts for Kuwaitis in 1987 reached 5,693 but 1,618 divorce cases were recorded during the same year. Social specialists indicate that early marriages is the main cause of divorce.

"Sayassah" conducted several interviews with a number of youth, women, and social workers and spoke with them on the issue of early marriage in Kuwaiti society: its advantages and disadvantages.

Some individuals included in the survey supported early marriage while others raised strong objections.

A section of people stated that law, norms and traditions are behind divorce adding that neither early nor late marriages can be the sole reason for divorce. Women indicated that the disadvantages of early marriages are mainly a lack of mental maturity which in turn reflects on negligence of home and children.

One female pointed out that early marriage requires special awareness which unfortunately is not provided because of current social circumstances.

Norms

Nami Saif Al Nami, the director of the office of the minister of social affairs and labour said that he does not believe that early marriages cause divorce but said that humans themselves are to be blamed. He indicated that some man-made laws, traditions and norms common in society failed to prevent the expansion of divorce. He said that the best solution for this problem is to go back to Islam and Suna. He added that early marriages are ideal to protect society in general from the many social problems which plague Western societies.

Ali Abdullah Al Turki, the general controller of commercial shops licences stated that early marriage protects youths from delinquency and crime and is the only way to solve the problem of juvenile delinquency in Kuwait. He added that early marriage prevents the gradual breakdown phenomenon from existing on a large scale and is a good tool to strengthen relations among members of society.

He indicated that late marriages create a large number of spinsters. Late marriages may also be one of the disadvantages which encourage delinquent behaviour among the youth.

Dr Basheer Al Rasheedi, the head of the educational psychology section at Kuwait University stated that early marriage was meant to preserve the sanity of both male and female youths. He said that due to economical, social and cultural changes and transformation witnessed by Kuwaiti society, any statement with regard to early marriage requires careful study, to envisage its advantages and disadvantages.

On the other hand, statistics revealed that 56.3 per cent of Kuwaiti females get married between the ages of 15 and 19 years, and 11.6 per cent females get married before they reach 15 years of age. Dr Rasheedi indicated that such statistics acknowledge the fact that there is a large section of mothers in Kuwaiti society who lack the maturity required to rear children.

Birth rate

He added that the phenomenon of high birth rate is common in Kuwaiti society. Statistics show that 46.2 per cent of Kuwaiti families have an average of 4 to 10 children.

A marriage counsellor, Abdullah Al Mtairi stated that divorce cases among people who marry late is higher than the rate among people who marry early.

On the other hand, another section of youth stated that Kuwaiti society requires more early marriages in order to adjust many social situations and changes caused by the transformation in social, economical and cultural norms after the discovery of oil.



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Non-Arab manpower over 50pc in Gulf

Call to develop nationals

THE Secretary-General of Arab Union for Technical Education, Dr. Ghassan Haseeb, said that foreign manpower (non-Arab) in the Arab Gulf area formed over 50 per cent of the total manpower.

He added that this percentage began increasing at the end of the present decade and the reduction in Arab manpower was more than foreign manpower in the beginning of the 1980s.

Dr. Haseeb, who attended the conference of technical education that was held in Kuwait recently, revealed that Arab and foreign manpower reached 85 per cent of total manpower in some Arab Gulf states while the rest were national manpower.

He said this was due to the complete

dependence of the private sector on foreign manpower because of its cheapness. This resulted in neglecting development of national manpower.

The Arab world should reduce its dependence on foreigners, he said.

National manpower can play an active role in the national economy of Arab countries if these states reconsider the

wages and payments given to them.

He said that Arab girls did not prefer technical and professional education. In some Arab countries no girls join the institutes or faculties of technology or applied education.

In some other countries the number of girls did not exceed ten per cent of the total students.

Intifada aids change in US public opinion

ADC to raise funds in Kuwait

KUWAIT, Nov. 19. (KUNA): Chairman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Abdoen Jabarah yesterday said that the heroic Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories has profoundly changed American public opinion and the ADC is trying to translate that support into concrete political change.

Jabarah, in a news conference at the Graduates Society here, reiterated the ADC's pledge to exert its utmost to help bring peace in the Middle East and help change the ugly image of Arabs in the West.

The ADC has opened an office in occupied Jerusalem to help thousands of Arab-Americans there who are facing daily problems of harassment and discrimination at the hands of the Israeli authorities, he indicated.

He said ADC has also discovered and exposed to the media the confidential memorandum of former secretary of state Henry Kissinger and his meeting with several American Jewish leaders in which he suggested that Israel should close the occupied territories to the media and crush that Palestinian intifada.

Palestinian people in addition to removing an anti-Arab hall-owen mask from the markets.

Among other ADC victories and accomplishments were the recent US Congress' recognition of Oct 25th as the National Arab-American Day, Jabarah went on.

He said ADC strongly supports an independent Palestinian state and has taken several steps to encourage a constructive American response to the Lebanese crisis as well as backing the Arab League's resolutions concerning Lebanon and the full Israeli withdrawal from there.

He indicated that coalition work with other American organisations have been expanded with considerable efforts to influence American labour organisations and the committee has continued to work with all major religious institutions on their Middle East programmes.

For his part, Said Al Enzi, the head of the Graduates Society's information committee highlighted the joint co-operation between the society and ADC.

He said a fund-raising dinner banquet will be held today and on Tuesday and Wednesday two fund-raising concerts by Lebanese musician Marcel Khalifah will also be conducted.

Legal Clinic



If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind. Send your questions to Arab Times, Legal Clinic. Our Kuwait lawyer Khalid T. al-Husseini replies to readers queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 047405.

I AM working in Kuwait as a domestic helper. By the year 1990, I will complete four years with my sponsor. I want to know if I can come back to Kuwait to work for another sponsor. Is it necessary to take a release letter from my employer, if my visa is "cancelled"?

Renad C.

YOU cannot come back to Kuwait and work with another sponsor unless you cancel your visa with your current sponsor. It is better for you to get a release letter from your current sponsor and then transfer your visa to the new sponsor before leaving Kuwait. Or else you can cancel your residence and leave the country and come back on the new visa given by another sponsor.

I AM working in a private company from Nov. 1, 1984 and resigned on Nov. 1, 1989. During this period I had availed annual leave together with leave without payment with the approval from the company. My company now refuses to pay me the indemnity stating that since I took leave without payment for 93 days during five years of service with them, I am not entitled for indemnity. Is this correct, please guide me.

Taher, IT is not correct what the company told you, because they accepted your coming back to work soon after your holiday, which means that the company implicitly approved your holidays. In this case you have the right to ask for your dues after resigning from the company. The indemnity includes also the payments of holidays that you did not get.

I AM an Indian working here for one of the banks for the last 20 years. In 1988 I was promoted to the rank of officer. Being an officer I am daily given an extra day of leave and each while others who become officers do not get this benefit. I have not approached the bank for this benefit, but he turned a deaf ear to my plea.

According to our general manager's open-door policy, would it be advisable to write to him. (His memo is enclosed here with for your kind perusal)

A.F.A.I. D'Souza.

ACCORDING to that respective bank's regulations, you can petition higher personnel in that bank until you get your rights and until you feel you are the same with your other colleagues. However, your work contract states that you have to do what your employers ask you to do within the limited work hours and according to your abilities.

You can approach your general manager with that enclosed letter which states: Your supervisor's door is open to you all times. We encourage you to take advantage of your policy of openness. And another thing, if after talking things through with your supervisor, you wish to have another hearing, I urge you to take your concern to the next higher level of management. You should continue through the chain of command until you are satisfied that you have had a fair and

sympathetic hearing."

I ENTERED Kuwait on Sep 12, 1983, on visa No. 18. I worked for a catering company as a cook till the company's contract expired with the concerned military and I left Kuwait for good on May 18, 1987. I re-entered Kuwait on July 30, 1988 on a fresh visa No. 18 for another company. I have signed a three-year contract. The company did not give me a copy of the contract.

The rules and regulations of the contract were as following: Free accommodation, free medical treatment, seven days sick leave a year, KD60 salary, 10 hours duty and 15 days annual leave.

For the first three months the company paid me KD45 salary saying that I do not have Kuwaiti driving licence and they must give me work as helper. The manager refused to give me sick leave when I was really sick and I had to work when sick. I went to hospital and the doctor gave me treatment but to grant sick leave, the doctor asked me to bring the sick leave form which the company's manager refused to give. The company has done the formalities for driving licence but I passed the driving test on my own. The company brought my licence from the KTO and cut KD20 of my salary saying it's because the company did the formalities.

Now does the licence belong to me?

Many times the company harassed me by taking my licence by saying that it belongs to them. Also the company has cut KD30 saying that the fees are for Hawiya and Civil ID.

My duty is from 5am to 3pm and the company wants me to work overtime from 3pm to 11 pm, which is eight hours extra. When I refused they cut my salary for one day again when I refused they stopped my salary completely. The company has just a fine of KD5 for not putting the mask for the person given of the car. Once the brother of the boss of the company beat me with blows and kicks because I refused to work overtime. I kept quiet because I am an expatriate. I could have raised my hand too. But one of our boss's brother has great influence.

So I had to keep quiet, now I am fed up with the company because of harassment till today. I want to resign and go to India. When I told this to the boss he said that I cannot and if I do by force he will cancel the passport in such a way that I will not be able to come back to Kuwait to work under another sponsor. Do I have to pay any compensation to the company and if so how many months salary.

I am ready to buy my air ticket according to the contract. Should I approach the labour court and file a case or should I complain to the police station or my embassy?

J.N. Memmes

YOU CAN ask for a photocopy of your contract by telling them it is required for completing some formalities by other authorities. If the company refuses to give you a photocopy then you can prove it with witnesses. About your driving licence it is considered one of the personal

documents which belongs to you. If the company refuses to give it to you then you can obtain a new one issued of the "lost one" at the Traffic Department.

The company has no right to force you to work for extra eight hours, because you are already working for ten hours, according to the law here. The company's unfair treatment by beating or harassing you is illegal. You can complain at the Labour Court through witnesses. Also you can go to the nearest police station and file a complaint against the person who beat you.

If you want to resign then you have to give a 15 days notice or according to what is stated in your contract. As you mentioned that your contract is three years, so you have the right for compensation for the damages that occurred for leaving your work before the end of the contract according to Article 53 of the Labour Law.

You can file a case against the company for breaking the contract and their way of treating you. This case will be referred to the court, if no reconciliation occurred at the investigation department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

You can complain about their beating you at the investigation department.

I CAME to Kuwait on May 27, 1989, on a work permit, with two years contract expiring on May 1991. I have been with this company since May 27, 1989. Unfortunately I had an accident inside the plant. I was treated at Adan Hospital for more than one month. The doctor gave me permission for light work only. The company's supervisor refused despite my complaints. The superintendent was annoyed with me. Last month he called and informed that from Oct 16 don't come to work and told my services were terminated starting from that day.

I was shocked and do not know what to do. I went next day to the manager who told me that they will rehire me on their own expenses. They gave me indemnity and also my insurance for disability which was 2 per cent of one month salary.

Do I have the right for compensation for the rest of my contract period?

Since Oct 16 I have only to wait in the camp till the cancellation of my visa. I am just working up to this date and the company did not give me my final settlement. Yesterday only they gave me KD50. My wife who was worried about me delivered a baby this month.

D.R.

YOU have the right to ask for compensation if you are sacked and your contract was for a limited period of time, according to the labour law. Also you can ask for compensation of disability that occurred during your working hours, mentioned in your medical report. Due to not completing three years with your sponsor in your current job, then you do not have the right for transfer of residence to another sponsor. But you can ask him to cancel your residence and give you an air ticket to go back to your country.

Education Ministry to develop efficiency

THE assistant undersecretary for planning and development at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Rasheed Al Hamad, said his department planned to develop the efficiency and performance of the staff as part of the ministry's improvement plans in general.

He said the plan would determine the qualifications needed for the staff of each department or offer training courses.

He said the general training plans were made at the Training centre of the ministry or in co-operation with Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training or the Civil Service Commission.

The ministry also planned to develop its co-operation with the Science Faculty at Kuwait University in order to train staff at the laboratories.

Methods

He said the ministry had set up a committee to study methods of developing school buildings and installations according to modern educational methods.

It studied the models and designs of the existing schools and the models in advanced countries for this purpose.

The ministry will build 31 new schools next year, he said.

The committee, which was set up last year, consists of representatives of the Ministries of Education, Public Works and Planning, as well as of the Municipality and National Housing Authority. Its purpose was to prepare good designs and schemes for schools of each stage.

Transfer

Meanwhile, the director of Jahra Educational Area, Sulaiman Al Koub, said his area has started co-ordination with the Capital Educational Area for transferring of 22 schools from Jahra Educational Area to the Capital.

He told a local daily that these schools were situated in Sulaiyikhat and Doha areas. He said the transfer process will be completed by Dec 1.

He pointed out that Jahra Education Area would include the schools in Jahra residential area and Sulaiyikhat residential area.

He added for the time being, the number of the schools at Jahra area was 110 schools, but after the new redistribution process the number will be reduced to 88.



Gold for Bear Name Contest

Arabian Exhibition Management, organisers of the Autumn Fair '89 in Bahrain have launched a Gulf-wide hunt for a name for the Fair Bear mascot which has been adopted by them.

A bumper prize of BD100/- in cash and gold will go to the winner who sends in the most appropriate name for the mascot, an energetic bear wearing the fair T-shirt. The bear has agreed to feature in all the promotional material for the fair and is also expected to be on hand to personally greet and invite visitors to the ten-day event.

Entries bearing the name chosen by the contestant and his/her name and address should be sent in to the Autumn Fair Name-Hunt, P.O. Box 20200, Manama, Bahrain before November 25, 1989.

"The Autumn Fair is a family event that will combine bargain shopping and entertaining in the best fairground tradition," commented chief executive Stephen Key, "Since this is the first time such an event is being held locally, we have created a mascot that will help the public to identify with the fun and excitement of the fair. What we are looking for is a name that will appeal to the cosmopolitan mix of visitors we are expecting at the fair while reflecting local colour and atmosphere."

Procedure at border centres to be easier

A NEW system is to be introduced at land border centres in order to provide more facilities for travellers and to develop the services offered by the state.

Governor of Jahra, Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah, told a local daily that the Interior Ministry had set up a committee to elaborate the system to enable it to cope with the increasing number of travellers who passed through border centres.

The committee made a comprehensive study and prepared a system based on the best systems in the world.

The new system will complete the formalities of arrivals and departures in a very short time. This would reduce the time and effort of passengers, security men and passport officials at land borders.

Sheikh Ali said the system would be applied at Abdali and Salmi centres, probably from next summer.

Meanwhile, the Jahra governor also said that he was proud that the people of Jahra wanted the governorate headquarters to be located at Jahra City.

He told a local daily that he was seriously considering a suitable location for the headquarters.

He denied that Jahra was a remote area or was treated as one.

He said that Jahra was a big city and there were development plans that would make it better than other cities.

Herbs best for losing weight, says Kuwaiti chemist

A KUWAITI chemist, Tayeb Al Tayeb, said that imbibing herbs were the best method of reducing weight without any side effect.

He told a local daily that a specific type of pure herbs could do two functions in a human being's body: one was the absorption of extra energy in the body and the second was preventing starchy foodstuff from changing into sugar.

He stressed that these herbs had a direct effect in reducing weight, adding that, to make the herbs palatable, some

spices, such as cardamom and cinnamon, would be added to the herb mix.

Obesity

He disclosed that empirical tests on this herbal mix showed that it reduced weight by eight kilograms a month and without any side effect. He added that some cases the weight had been reduced by 11 kilograms a week, he said this was a record. But added that those who achieved were doing exercises beside taking the herbs.

He added that with these herbs people suffering from obesity could eat whatever they liked, but to achieve rapid results, it was better not to eat sweets.

Speaking of the preparation of such herbs, Tayeb said these could be prepared like tea and could be taken every morning for one month.

He said that the public showed great enthusiasm for these herbs and the shops dealing with it were crowded all the time and some people quarrelled with the shop owners when they failed to get the

materials.

He added that the success percentage for the use of these herbs could be estimated at 85 per cent.

Speaking of the sources of these herbs, the chemist said the herbs were being brought from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Dubai and Iran, as well as Germany and the USA.

He said that he had no special factory for preparing the popular medicine, as obtaining a licence for establishing such a factory was very difficult. He said that in

some cases he was preparing the herbs for the treating of epilepsy cases because he felt pity for these persons.

For weight reduction, he gave the necessary prescription and the results were encouraging.

He said, he received several offers from Kuwait and foreign companies for co-operation in selling the herbal preparation in their shops, adding that he turned down the offers because he did not know how to prepare the mixture for mass production.

برسوسو

شفرات تلائم كافة آلات الحلاقة

متوفرة في الجمعيات والاسواق المركزية

صناعة أمريكية

EVENTS



Abdullah Al Muhanna inspects the books.



So do the children.



The teachers enjoy reading.

UAS hold their fifth book fair

UNIVERSAL American School is holding its Fifth Annual Book Week (November 18 to 22). Abdullah Al Muhanna, director of the Department of Private Education, officially opened the celebration.

The week-long celebration of books and reading, features a Book Fair with thousands of books on display for sale, in the libraries, at reduced prices.

A special feature of this year's Book Week are performances by the American Community Theatre. Their show, developed by the group, which includes UAS staff members, uses story books, poetry, and readers theatre selections from the UAS library.

Throughout the past several weeks, the UAS elementary students and teachers have been preparing book displays, book marks, posters, stories, poetry reading, and other activities to share with classmates.

Additionally, speakers and drama performances have been planned for the week. On Saturday, Samira Omar, one of the planners of Kuwait's new National Park system, spoke to high school students about Kuwait's fragile ecosystems. Claudia Farkas Al Roshaid, a freelance writer and photographer, will speak to classes on Wednesday.

Parents are invited to visit the fair to browse or to purchase books at a special discount.

Anniversary of Pakistan elections

A LARGE number of Pakistanis living in Kuwait attended a function to celebrate the first anniversary of holding of democratic elections in Pakistan in November last year.

The function, which was held at the residence of Haji Mohammad Afzal Noor — convenor Pakistan People's Club, Kuwait, was also attended by the Pakistani ambassador and labour attaché.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran

9.40 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety

9.50 Around the World: Cartoon series for children

10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.20 Fin Muntassaf Al Lail

11.35 United Arab Emirates Popular Arts: Variety programme

12.20 Sabah Al Kher News

12.30 News Summary

12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran

4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

5.15 Manna Anisa and the Children: Children's Programme

6.00 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements

6.15 Al Islam Hadhara: Religious Serial (part 13)

7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious Programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shauqi Ibrahim

8.00 Omsiyat Al Ithnen: Variety programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Baryes

8.30 Good Evening and local news

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Tareq Min Al Sama: Arabic serial (part 14)

10.30 Masra Al Muntassaf: Historical serial (part 7), starring Abdullah Ghaith, Sameeha Ayoub, Ameena Rizvi

11.45 News Summary

11.50 The World News via Satellite

12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 The Little Rascals: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Wild Life "Christmas Island": A look at all sorts of life on "Christmas Island" after atomic explosions took place

7.00 Roving Report: A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news

7.30 Charles in Charge: "Five Easy Pieces" Charles has to help his mother who becomes in charge of a Pizzeria

8.00 News in English

8.30 The Scientific Progress: A weekly local programme about scientific topics and activities

9.00 Sunny Spoon "Papa Roti": A loan shark seizes the camera and photography equipment of a professional photographer, where he finds a film inside a camera

10.00 Better Days "Stake": spoils the food of a young student who challenges him in a duel to be held between them

10.30 Jake and The Fatman: While a policeman is busy in chasing a gang of criminals, his wife plans to avenge from him

11.30 News in Arabic

11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are subject to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

Shock Troop

Al Sahabi

Moon-Trap

Al Hama

Arabic film

Drive-In

Arabic film

Al Firdos

Bruce Lee in New Guinea

Fahadhel Open-air

Daulat

Al Fahadhel

Back Fire

Al Jahra

Mad Mission IV

Granada

Avalanche Express

Sahibkhat

Domanihi Bala

Al Hama

Arabic film

Drive-In

Arabic film

Al Firdos

Bruce Lee in New Guinea

Fahadhel Open-air

Daulat

Al Fahadhel

Back Fire

Al Jahra

Mad Mission IV

Prayers

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

NIGHT CHENIST

Kuwait City

Al Istiqal Pharmacy

Safat Square

Al Muntasser Pharmacy

Ahmed Al Jaber Street

Khawla & Al Nagra

Al Hama

Arabic film

Drive-In

Arabic film

Al Firdos

Bruce Lee in New Guinea

Fahadhel Open-air

Daulat

Al Fahadhel

Back Fire

Al Jahra

Mad Mission IV

Prayers

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

Prayers

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

Prayers

Fajr

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Maghreb

Isha

Prayers

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

Prayers

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

ARTS

Islamic Art

A SIX week — 12 lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in English at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Sunday and Tuesday mornings from 10.00 - 12.00 noon. October 29 through December 5, 1989.

An eight week — eight lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in Arabic at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Monday afternoons from 4.00 - 6.00 pm from October 30 through December 19, 1989.

To register for either of these courses please sign up at the Dar Al Athar during museum hours 8.30 am - 12.30 pm.

Watercolour Painting

LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills. New 8 week course in Drawing & Painting for adults. For details tel: 5618847.

SOCIAL

Yuletide Fayre

Do not miss the Yuletide Fayre being organised by St Paul's Church, Ahmadi from 2 pm to 5 pm on the afternoon of Friday, 1st December at the British embassy compound. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, handicrafts and books as well as for cakes and preserves. There will be entertainment, including Santa Claus, for the children. Refreshments will be available.

Planner wanted

KUWAIT Little Theatre — Ahmadi urgently require a pianist to help with their pantomime rehearsals and performances. Anyone interested, please call S. Prescott on 3725960 after 3 pm.

Carnival Night

The long awaited Carnival Night will be held for the first time in Kuwait with popular bands "Top Ranks" and "Perfect Strangers" vibrating up the Carnival Spirit to bring out their best music ever. So all you folks look ahead for more details through this column for the precise date in the month of February, 1990.

Jazz Night

NOV 29: In response to overwhelming demand, once again Phil Thomas and the "High Spirits" will be extending their "Jazzical" repertoire for your enjoyment. From 8pm to 12 midnight. Phone: 5640981.

Kuwait Goans

DEC 15: Annual children's Xmas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance. To avoid disappointment

call for your early bookings on 2413348.

Get together

DEC 22: Southerners welcome you once again to a family get-together at Le Mirage Hall at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel at 10 am.

December Delights

DEC 8: Expatriates Club announces its Yuletide gala-social for children and adults at the SAS 'Tent' Hotel from 0930 hours onwards. Gifts for all children, fancy dress, hamper prizes, lunch buffet, gifts, prizes and surprises from the sponsors and the club. Book early for table reservations. Wilson 3918938, Val 5614506 (after 4 pm) and Tony 5655056 (after 5 pm). Music by Stepping Stones.

Fancy Dress Competition

DEC 8: Joint annual family get-together has been shifted to Kuwait Regency Palace for the convenience of all members on 8th Dec from 10.00 am onwards. Live music from the Top Ranks, fancy dress competition, free gifts from Santa and games for children.

Members are requested to collect their passes from the managing committee or call Joe 3981790/Satu 3921712.

Kuwait Cultural Centre

THE Kuwait Cultural Centre is opening a French Language course to be held on Saturdays and Mondays. For further detail please contact 5624393.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore. Contact Columbus on 4348218.

Exhibition

AN exhibition of superb replica of trees and plants which uniquely couple lifelike fabric foliage with natural trunks and branches. Select for more than 20 different varieties of plants and trees for the size space. On display at the lower lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at: 2407029.

British Council

85th birthday tribute to Graham Greene — The British Council is holding an 85th Birthday Tribute to Graham Greene with an exhibit of a set of poster about his life and works during the whole month of November. On 25 Nov and

Sunday, 26th Nov., film adaptations of "Brighton Rock" and "The Human Factor" will be shown at the Gallery starting at 5.00 pm. Admission is free but please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Hobby centre

New Courses in Jewellery making and design for adults. For children there is Pottery starting next month for 6 weeks. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Fiesta Extravaganza

The Filipino Cultural Club, in its continuous effort to pursue its commitment to promote goodwill, offer wholesome entertainment, and carry out the club's objectives, will be staging Fiesta Extravaganza '89 (An FCC Christmas Special) on 8th December 1989, a Friday, at the plush Hotel Meridien from 5 pm. This 'year-end affair' will be presented by the FCC as a special way of thanking the club's friends, supporters and well-wishers for their continuous support and patronage. As the year 1989 comes to a close, FCC looks forward to being with you for an enjoyable pre-Christmas get-together. Guests can look forward to another very entertaining evening — FCC style, with a sumptuous dinner and a special show for which the club has been widely reputed for. In addition, there will be a raffle draw featuring valuable prizes for many, as well as dancing for everyone's enjoyment.

Proceeds of the show will be used for the club's welfare projects and surely enough, your kind patronage will go a long way in helping the FCC with their commitment to the less privileged Filipinos in Kuwait.

A limited number of tickets are now available for KDS at the following outlets: Philippine Gift Shop at the Souk Al Kabir and Mahabay Restaurant at the Carlton Hotel.

For more details, please contact Florence Delos Santos: Tel. 2439451 or 2436121; Totis Mariga: Tel. 2417766; Jun Sta. Maria and other members of the club.

Musical Show

DEC 1: Musical Entertainment Show at Doha Entertainment City in 'Starlight Theatre' with Live Rock 'n' Roll, Pop and Reggae music from the most popular and dynamic beat groups of Kuwait.

The Highlights: Fancy dress competition, live stage performance of jive, break dance and solo dancing by Joe Misquita, Tony & their dancing group. Including many surprises.

For complete details Twinkle on: 4879455 ext. 298 (4 pm to 9 pm); Hilary, 2649442; John Philp, 2546890 (after 8 pm);

Tom and Luiza, 2661370.

For tickets contact: Andrew at Dreamland Tailor's, 1st floor, above Raja Stores, opp. Canara Exchange.

NB: Transportation is available.

Thursday Night Fever

The Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait will hold another interaction evening for the beneficiaries of its welfare projects which it conducts in coordination with the Welfare officer of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration. The evening promises rhythmically pulsating dance music for all dance floor aficionados. The project is entitled "Thursday Night Fever" and is scheduled to be held on Thursday, the 30th of November 1989 at 5.30 pm at the Meridien Hotel's Al-Jahra Ballroom.

Meanwhile FLASSIK invites everyone to join their "LOVE DRIVE." Used clothing, blankets, toiletries and canned goods are welcome. Please contact any FLASSIK officers if you have any donations. And for those looking forward to the yule season we invite you to the "CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT" under the talented conductress Gilda Navarro and the Filipino choir. Watch out for more details.

Star Nite

DEC 21: Star Nite Stepping Stones have stepped in and it's going to be a nite to celebrate Yuletide. Fun fare for children and variety programme for others starting from 5-8.30 pm and goes on from 9 pm until sumptuous buffet mid-night. A gala of prizes with Hamper lucky draws under 555 sponsorship invitations with Shop No. 34 ex New Super Market and contact Tel: 5331940, 2413706 (res).

Nostalgia Filipino

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) will hold their Philippine Community Day on Friday, Nov 24 at the SAS 'Tent' at 6.00 pm in co-operation with the Philippine Embassy. This big event will also coincide with the selection of Hiyas ng Filipinas — Kuwait '89, a personality and talent contests. The theme of this year celebration is Nostalgia Filipino.

The association's main objectives are to bring all Filipinos closer and to ease their loneliness and homesickness.

Kapilku President Manny Inserto is optimistic that this year's celebration will strengthen ties among Filipinos in Kuwait. The proceeds will be utilised to less fortunate members of the association.

All the guests will be treated to an extravaganza of music in

love song, modern to rock 'n' roll plus cultural shows to be performed by well known Filipino singers and artists respectively.

A coloured TV and other valuable prizes will be at stake to all the guests in raffle contest during the celebration.

Versatile Sarah Macarimbang, VP for Social & Cultural Affairs is the chairperson of this big and colourful project while Flamboyant Jun Mercado is the vice chairman.

Energetic Thelma A. Sanjel, finance officer of the Philippine Embassy is the production consultant and debonair Manny Tupas is the musical director. Tickets are available at General Admission, Premiere and deluxe. For details, please contact the chairperson on telephone number 4843447 or the vice chairman on telephone number 4899418.

KUWAIT Little Theatre

Ahmedi invite directors and producers interested in putting on a production this season or next season. Anyone interested should meet at the theatre on Sunday 19 November at 7.30 pm.

Musical Nights with Adnan Butti

A variety of popular Indian and Pakistani songs, ghazals and gets to be presented in exclusive musical gatherings on four consecutive Thursdays starting from November 23, 1989 at various locations in Kuwait. For details contact 3919720, 3610088 and 4743955.

Filipino Choral Group

DEC 16: The Spirit of Christmas is just around the corner and the Filipino Choral Group in its traditional bid to bring cheers, love and goodwill to all Christians in Kuwait will present a 30-minute repertoire of English and Filipino Christmas carols on December 16, 5 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral.

This prelude to the first day of Misa de Gallo is organised by Ed Oras and to be conducted by Hilda Navarro-both working as medical technologists in Farwaniya Hospital.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Drought hits Syria's fragile economy

DAMASCUS, Syria, Nov. 19, (AP): A drought has jolted Syria's fragile economy, just as the prospect of oil income was starting to feed hopes of better days. During the last winter, rainfall was 40 percent below the 15-year average, cutting 1989 wheat production in half, according to the Arab Press Service, a Damascus-based newsletter.

Syrian officials are reluctant to give details about the problem, but Prime Minister Mahmoud al-Zuhayr said recently that the drought "has affected the country with unfortunate consequences."

An agricultural expert in Damascus confirmed the newsletter's estimate that Syria will have to import 1.7 million tons of grain by the end of the year at a cost of more than \$300 million, approximately 6 percent of the 1989 budget.

Syria imported about 900,000 tons of grain last year.

Besides the drought, Syrian agriculture is hampered by too much government interference, say Western diplomats and agricultural experts who asked to be identified.

Agriculture Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi, whose technical competence was fired in 1987 amid allegations of corruption, is a tough former policeman and industrialist.

Ghannouchi operates a system of crop leasing under which small farmers are allowed to use state land parcels of land, but they do not have any investment in what they grow.

They get equipment, seed, fertilizer and irrigation water at subsidized prices and sell their produce at guaranteed, fixed prices. More economic incentives are needed to encourage farmers to work harder to raise their yields, he sources said.

"Though US relations with Syria have improved in the last few years, Syria is not able to get wheat aid from the United States because it is still on the US State Department's list of countries supporting terrorism."

So, most of the wheat it imports will be at commercial rates, decimating Syria's small oil currency income. Half of it had already been spent on oil imports before the drought.

"They're coping with it. They are coming through without serious political consequences," said a diplomat, who declined to be identified.

He said Syria would divert money from oil development to pay for wheat imports and to pay for food and other basic goods.

Syria's leaders are keenly aware of the riots in Jordan and Sudan earlier this year when basic prices of subsidised goods and services were increased.

Iraqi oil for Aden refinery

ADEN, Nov. 19, (Reuters): An Iraqi tanker carrying 170,000 tonnes of oil arrived in South Yemen today from the Saudi Arabian Red Sea port of Yanbu.

An official source said the tanker was the first big tanker to bring oil to the port on the Gulf of Aden since modernisation work was completed.

The oil will be refined at the Aden refinery under a pact signed by Iraq and South Yemen in March. It provided for seven million barrels a year of Iraqi crude, which reaches the Red Sea by pipeline across Saudi Arabia, to be refined in Aden.

Italian Lira	17,760
Spanish Peseta	7,570
Portuguese Escudo	14,120
British Pound	9,180
US Dollar	2,910
French Franc	4,675
UAE Dirham	8,140
Deutsche Mark	1,625
Japanese Yen	160,000

East Europe Development Bank may help stimulate cash flow

PARIS, Nov. 19, (Reuters): Doctrinal obstacles to channelling Western cash to Eastern Europe are disappearing fast and the time may be ripe for a development bank to co-ordinate the task, Western analysts say today.

French President Francois Mitterrand proposed the idea of a bank for the development and modernisation of Eastern Europe on behalf of 12 European Economic Community heads of state after their snap weekend summit to focus on the problems of the East bloc.

"The bank will involve all countries which supply capital and will channel it to all the (Eastern) countries which engage in reform," Mitterrand said.

Analysts said the idea of a bank clearly reflected Western Europe's desire to look after affairs in its own backyard.

Volatile E. German mark shows economic obstacles to reform

WEST BERLIN, Nov. 19, (Reuters): Thousands of East Germans pushed their currency further into crisis this weekend by cashing in a welcome gift from the Bonn government for the equivalent of almost two months' salary back home.

The 100 W. German mark (\$54) gift to every East German visitor can be exchanged on the black market for as many as 1,000 ostmarks as the East German currency is known—making a mockery of the official one-for-one pegging of the currencies.

The average East German earns 1,100 ostmarks a month. At a rate of

one Deutschmark to 20 ostmarks that would buy dinner for two at an average West Berlin restaurant.

Since the Berlin Wall opened on October 9 the ostmark has nose-dived against the Deutschmark as millions of East Germans—some carrying their life savings—poured into West Germany for the first time in 28 years.

Mass speculation on the currency has slashed the unofficial value of the ostmark and may even threaten the much-needed investment capital being sought from the west by East Berlin.

Economists say East Berlin must make an official devaluation and allow

the ostmark to trade freely against other currencies—thus destroying the damaging black market—if its overdue economic reconstruction is to succeed.

Until two days ago the ostmark bought 10 West German pfennigs at the unofficial rate. By this weekend its value was slashed to just over four pfennigs.

Many West German shops, including the huge Kaufhof department store chain, stopped accepting ostmarks.

"We are going to make terrible losses if we accept ostmarks because the exchange rate could go through the

floor by Monday," said the manager of a West Berlin shoe store.

The ostmark's dramatic fall prompted a rare emotional outburst from East Germany's new Prime Minister Hans Modrow. He described it as "speculation of the most evil kind."

It recovered slightly at the weekend as East German visitors began buying back their own currency before returning home. By late Saturday it had edged back up to around eight pfennigs.

The export and import of ostmarks is theoretically banned by East Germany but the flood of visitors has made it almost impossible to enforce the

regulations. Some people have been caught, like the 33-year-old locksmith who had 21,000 ostmarks stashed under the seat of his car.

Troops of the American, British and French garrisons in West Berlin, exempt from the ostmark import and export ban, are also buying cheap ostmarks to do Christmas shopping in East Berlin, where goods are subsidised.

Despite signs of recovering demand for the ostmark West German economists believe it will remain under pressure as East Germany struggles to implement economic reforms.

In a radio interview today Gert Vogt of West Germany's reconstruction loan corporation said currency reform was inevitable. "A drastic reduction of the money supply in East Germany is necessary," he said.

The new East German leadership has repeatedly said it does not plan to devalue but on Saturday Finance Minister Uta Nickel said measures to prevent speculation against the ostmark and East German goods would be made public next Thursday.

"We must reach decisions—not next week, but soon—and examine convertibility."

Meeting to focus on pollution

GCC oil ministers to line up joint policy for Opec meeting

ABU DHABI, Nov. 19, (AP): Oil ministers of the Gulf Co-operation Council were to meet here late tonight to line up a joint policy for next weekend's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries ministerial council.

Opec's current total production is 23.5 million barrels a day, according to the Middle East Economic Survey, a respected oil newsletter. Opec set a ceiling of 20.5 million barrels a day for the fourth quarter of 1989.

Oil industry executives say Saudi output has been running close to six million barrels per day.

The other three members of the six-nation GCC include Qatar, a small producer member of Opec and Bahrain and Oman, who are not Opec members but depend on oil revenues as the backbone of their economies.

Because of high world demand the present Opec target price of \$18 a barrel has not been significantly undercut despite the overproduction. But the Middle East Economic Survey reported in its Nov. 13 issue that "storm warnings are already being posted for the first quarter of 1990."

However, an oil industry official here, who declined to be named, was more optimistic. He estimated oil fluctuations

Sheikh Ali for Abu Dhabi

KUWAIT, Nov. 19, (Kuna): Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa left here this afternoon to Abu Dhabi leading Kuwait's delegation to the 15th meeting of the permanent ministerial committee for petroleum co-operation.

Sheikh Ali will also participate in the meetings of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) which will begin there tomorrow.

The minister is accompanied by his office director Farid Zabal and will be joined later by Under-Secretary of the Ministry Abdelrahman Al Sultan.

to continue until around 1991 when Opec is able to reach a "comfortable level" of 22 to 23 million barrels per day that it could comfortably apportion among its member states.

GCC ministers scheduled a single session tonight indicating they were not expecting any discord.

The Gulf oil producers have moved to meet possible rising demand by starting to expand

their production capacity and finding new reserves.

Together, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE and Iraq say they sit on more than 570 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, some 55 per cent of the world's total.

Saudi Arabia has disclosed plans to expand its production capacity to 10-11 million barrels per day over the coming years, the same capacity it had at the height of the oil bonanza years in the mid-1970's.

"The reserve-rich, sparsely-populated Gulf Arab producers will dictate Opec policies on price and production levels until at least the year 2000," the oil industry source said.

Meanwhile, combating oil pollution topped the agenda drawn up yesterday for a meeting of oil ministers, officials reported.

Acting secretary-general Abdul-Aziz Al Wattani called for developing lead-free fuel to reduce oil pollution and protect the Arab oil industry.

Wattani, speaking to reporters, decried a Western call for reducing air pollution by cutting energy consumption, especially oil.

He said this would damage the oil industry and the interests of

Opec members. "That is why environmental problems are going to be discussed by the oil ministers of Opec for the first time ever," he said.

"We don't want our oil industry to have more burdens besides the current political pressures because of its oil resources."

The 17-point agenda was drawn up by the organisation's executive committee in preparation for the oil ministers' meeting in Abu Dhabi tomorrow.

"The meeting will discuss agreement on a negotiable stand for Opec if oil were part of the environmental subject at any future negotiations with the European Economic Community or any regional or international organization," said an Opec source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Opec, which has its headquarters in Kuwait, was formed to develop co-operation among Arab oil producers.

Tomorrow's meeting will be chaired by the UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Mansour bin Zayed.

Egypt will take part for the first time in a decade. Its membership was restored earlier this year after a 10-year hiatus because of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Tentative accord reached Move to end Boeing strike

SEATTLE, Nov. 19, (AP): Boeing Co. and machinists union leaders reached tentative agreement early today on a contract to end a 47-day-old strike affecting more than 57,000 workers across the United States.

Federal mediator Doug Hammond said he recommended terms that eventually were accepted by both sides in a 14-hour bargaining session that ended about 3:30 am local time.

Union leaders were divided on the offer, but the majority said they would recommend approval.

A ratification vote by members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers was set for tomorrow night.

Terms of the three-year contract proposal were withheld pending the vote.

At Hammond's request,

negotiators from the company and the union returned to the bargaining table Saturday, the third such attempt to find agreement since the strike began Oct. 4.

The walkout is the longest for Seattle-based Boeing since 1948.

Chief Boeing negotiator Larry McKean said strikers could be back on the job as early as Wednesday morning, adding that he was "certainly elated to have a tentative agreement here."

Justin Ostro, an international vice-president who co-ordinates aerospace industry negotiations for the union, complained the agreement failed to increase wage rates beyond Boeing's proposal, although it did boost production bonuses.

But Tom Baker, president of machinists district lodge 751 in Seattle, which represents nearly four-fifths of the workers covered by the union, called the

settlement "a substantial improvement" over previous Boeing offers.

Baker said ratification was favoured by negotiating team members representing 55,000 of those covered by the union.

Boeing's previous offer included wage increases of four per cent the first year, then three per cent each of the other two years.

The strike caused airlines, in the midst of industry-wide and highly competitive expansion, to have trouble getting planes they have ordered. Boeing has delivered 22 planes since the strike began, though it had hoped to deliver 94 in the last three months of 1989.

At least six of Boeing's major customers last week reported delays in receiving new planes, and some said they had to alter plans for expanding or inaugurating service.

World's tallest building flops on the market

CHICAGO, Nov. 19, (Reuters): The owners of the world's tallest building gave up trying to sell the 110-storey Sears Tower on Wednesday, saying it would instead take out a new loan on the Chicago building that some believe has become a second rate property.

In what might be described as the commercial equivalent of a home equity loan, Sears, Roebuck and Company said it would take a new mortgage on the 15-year-old tower and related nearby properties under an arrangement that will bring the company \$815 million.

Sears put its headquarters, a black tower looming over the Chicago skyline, up for sale more than one year ago as part of a company restructuring plan. At the time most experts hung a \$one billion price-tag on the property.

The building was completed in 1974 at a cost of \$150 million.

Under the agreement announced on Wednesday, Sears said AEW Partners of Boston would grant a 15-year mortgage on the property in a deal that should be closed by the middle of next summer.

Sears will continue to own and manage the properties but at the end of 15 years AEW Partners will have the right to sell them. Sears at that time would share in any profits beyond the amount of the mortgage, which totals about \$250 million.

During the time that the building was on the market there were occasional rumours of interested partners, but some real estate experts said the building might have become a white elephant.

Soviet minister winds up visit

KUWAIT, Nov. 19, (AP): The Soviet Minister for Construction of Oil and Gas Enterprises, Vladimir Chirakov, left Kuwait today after inspecting the first oil construction project to be contracted out to the Soviet Union in a member state of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

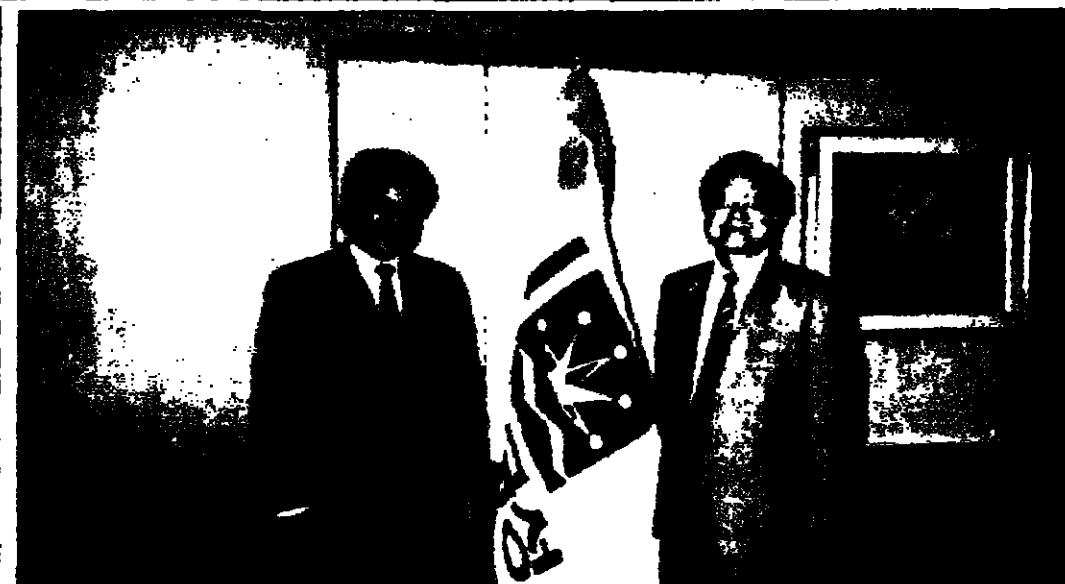
Chirakov, who arrived from Baghdad on Thursday, left after a four-day official visit including talks on co-operation with Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa.

The Soviet minister also conferred with the chairman of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Company, KOC, Abdel Malek Al Gharabally, and visited the oil drilling project in Abuja, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of Kuwait City. Mikhail Stepanian, commercial attaché at the embassy told the Associated Press.

The Soviet Union won the project in a tender last year for 16.62 million dinars (\$54.8 million), he said.

The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation is reportedly carrying out oil projects in the Soviet Union, including exploration activities, as part of growing petroleum co-operation between Kuwait and the Soviet Union.

Chirakov is Soviet co-chairman of the Soviet-Kuwait Committee for Technical Co-operation.



Picture shows Abdul Karim Moqaddass (left), managing director of M/s Al Ray Deco & Furniture Organisation with Chan-Sik Kim, director of M/s. Lucky Development Co. Seoul.

LDC's phenomenal growth

M/s. Al Ray Decoration & Furniture Organisation has been appointed as an official agent for M/s. Lucky Development Company. The agreement has been signed by both parties in Seoul, Korea.

LDC is prequalified for couple of governmental projects which will be soon announced by Kuwait Central Tender Committee (C.T.C.).

Lucky Development Company was established in 1969 as a member company of The Lucky Goldstar Group, Lucky Development Co., Ltd. (LDC) has grown remarkably into a

general contractor, enjoying now high reputation in the world-wide construction business circle.

Since its first operation in Saudi Arabia in 1978, the total construction volume realised by LDC in the international market has reached over \$1 billion. Owing much to this phenomenal growth, LDC has been ranked among the 100 largest contractors in the world outside the United States during recent years by Engineering News Record.

Such a growth and success has been possibly made available

through company's continuous efforts to maintain highly-skilled workmanship, the latest construction technology and efficient management to serve the client with better quality, on-time delivery and within-budget.

Still, to meet the continuing challenges and demands of tomorrow that requires more advanced and economical construction techniques, LDC yet spares no time or effort in research and development, and try every moment to maintain their competitiveness, expand the market, enlarge scope of activities.

Troubled Koor seeks fresh write-off

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19, (Reuters): Israel's troubled conglomerate Koor Industries has reported new, unforeseen losses and asked creditor banks to write off a further \$125 million in debt, a senior company official said on Friday.

He said a five-year recovery plan presented to Israeli banks this week forecast that the made union-owned concern would lose \$164 million this year despite an operating profit of

\$45 million.

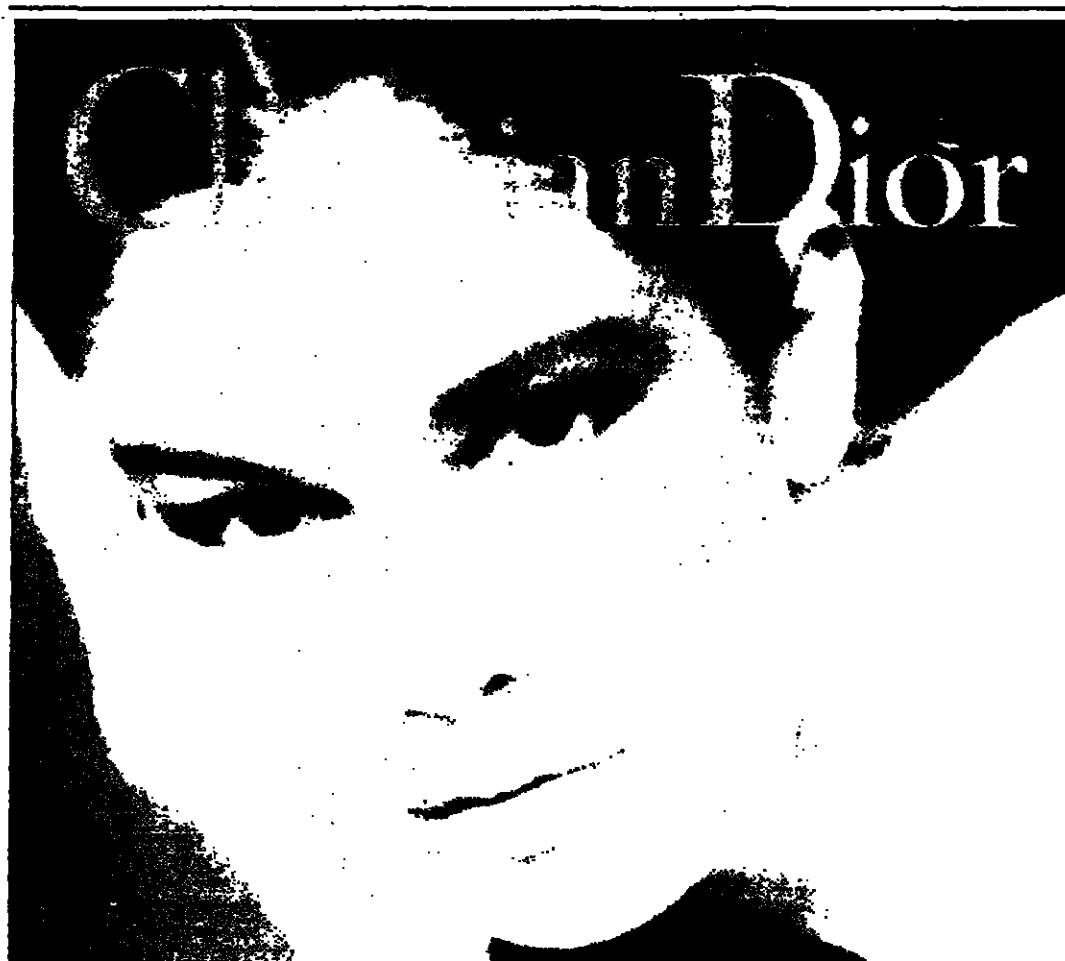
"Our efforts to heal the company have turned the picture around as far as the operating profit is concerned, but we have not solved the financial problems from the past," the official said.

Koor, Israel's biggest industrial employer, produces everything from electronics and metals to food. It owns Israeli and foreign banks a total of nearly \$900 million.

A senior source at one of the main creditor banks said the new figures reflected a significant and unexpected worsening in Koor's situation.

He said higher-than-forecast losses, a decrease in capital and a negative cash-flow would force Israeli banks to rethink their whole attitude towards the company's recovery programme.

Banks were studying the new plan with concern.



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Salinity	Old Pharmacy	2525000	Mohamed Curran, Falsified	3917029
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Solux, Faraway	Dahab Abdulla Salem Co-op	2518224	Solux Center, Salinity	5715525/1/2
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BUSINESS

Soviet trade privileges

Mosbacher sets conditions

WASHINGTON, Nov 19, (AP). The Soviet Union is nearing final passage of historic legislation establishing the right to travel, but US trade barriers will give way only gradually.

US Commerce Secretary Robert A. Mosbacher said yesterday the Soviet travel legislation will not lead to an immediate dismantling of tariffs erected by Congress 15 years ago on behalf of Soviet Jews.

But Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin, anticipating US action to facilitate trade, told reporters at the Soviet embassy, "we are expecting some positive steps from the US side," he called the Soviet legislation a breakthrough and evidence of "new thinking."

But Mosbacher said the Soviets, at best, would get only a year-to-year waiver while restrictions on trade credits would remain in place.

"We'll review it to see if it is sufficient," Mosbacher said of the Soviet legislation that is expected to clear its final hurdle by December. "We can't prejudge that."

He did not spell out the US conditions at a joint news conference with Konstantin Katusev, the Soviet minister of foreign economic

affairs. But he said the process could take "a lot longer" than his initial guess of one to three months.

Besides, Mosbacher said, a new trade agreement with the Soviet Union would have to be negotiated first. The last accord was nullified by Moscow in 1975 in retaliation for the erection of tariff barriers to Soviet goods a year earlier.

Mosbacher and Katusev signed commercial agreements designed to boost US investment in the Soviet Union and to launch negotiations on a new tax treaty. Also, they set up a working group to consider a new trade agreement "on a preliminary basis," Mosbacher said.

But, he added: "We want to make clear that we are not beginning negotiation of a trade agreement. This can come only after the Soviets codify their emigration legislation and after a waiver under the Jackson-Vanik amendment becomes possible."

The legislation imposed tariffs against Soviet goods that are not applied to the exports of most other countries. The restriction on trade credits was adopted in a parallel move by Congress.

Congressman Charles Schumer, who has pushed for wider Jewish emigration, said in a statement: "The Soviet Union is making real progress. But going all the way toward granting most-favoured nation (MFN) status strikes me as premature."

"There are several issues that need to be cleaned up. There are 600 long-term 'refuseniks' who should be freed before we extend the carrot of MFN."

The national conference on Soviet Jewry said, meanwhile, in a statement, "we welcome the initiative by the Soviet government in bringing before the Supreme Soviet a draft law providing for freedom of entry and exit."

The conference lists 51,336 Jews as emigrating from the Soviet Union by the end of October. The exodus surpasses the all-time high of 51,320 reached in 1979.

The new Soviet legislation establishes the right of all Soviet citizens to travel abroad — permanently or on visits — and reduces or eliminates most restrictions in effect now.

"The Soviet Union measures its words with deeds," Dubinin said as he detailed some of the major provisions, and Moscow's expectation of a positive US response.

China defends austerity

Economy slumps

BEIJING, Nov 19, (Reuters). China defended today its tough austerity campaign as it released data showing a worsening economic slump and mounting losses by state firms.

It also said it had begun buying stockpiled cars from foreign-invested automakers in a move that Western economists said was aimed at bailing out hard-hit companies.

China's retail sales fell 0.3 per cent in October — the third consecutive monthly decline — and losses of state firms doubled during the first 10 months of the year, according to the official New China News Agency.

The bad news followed a report last week that industrial growth in October plunged to minus 2.1 per cent from 18 per cent in all of 1988.

The People's Daily said in a front-page commentary today that the 14-month-old drive to cut spending and dampen inflation was necessary.

"It is undeniable that some companies, including foreign invested ones, are facing relatively more difficulties," it said. "But the specific objectives of this programme are aimed at improving the investment climate."

The official media also quoted the All China Federation of Industry and Commerce, China's

equivalent of a chamber of commerce, as pledging its support to the retrenchment programme which Communist Party leaders have vowed to continue for at least two more years.

No figure for the losses of state firms was given but the slump in sales across the country is expected to require huge subsidies to industry. That in turn will make the nation's budget deficit balloon, economists said.

The English-language China Daily said today that the government had begun buying cars from three foreign-invested companies.

The firms were not immediately available for comment but the newspaper said that cars had been bought from joint ventures with Volkswagen of West Germany, Peugeot of France and Chrysler jeep of the United States.

The government, already hard pressed for cash, planned to resell the cars once it found buyers in "urgent need."

"They don't want these companies to go bankrupt and leave," said a Western economist.

In addition to foreign firms, China has also eased credit to big state companies while controls on loans to the rural enterprises, collectives and private enterprises.

Coal strike continues

MOSCOW, Nov 19, (Reuters). Miners in the Soviet Arctic coalfield of Vorkuta have refused to call off a three-week-old strike but more than half the pits they are producing some coal to cover local needs, a spokesman said today.

Pressure from the government to end the strike, illegal under a new Soviet law, continued as a local court opened a case against the organisers, the spokesman for the strike committee said. He said one miner started a hunger strike in protest.

The Vorkuta miners began striking on October 27 accusing the government of not keeping agreements made at the end of a strike that swept the country's coalfields last summer.

But the miners were not calling off the work stoppage despite repeated pleas from Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who met a delegation from Vorkuta last week in Moscow.

Ryzhkov wants to cut state sector

Call to avoid exploitation

MOSCOW, Nov 19, (Reuters). Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov says the Soviet Union should make drastic cuts in the state sector to bring it to levels found in Western capitalist countries.

Ryzhkov told a major students conference this week that state ownership was far too high at about 85 per cent and should be drastically reduced, its place taken by shareholding, leasing and "individual" property.

"We must sharply reduce the share of state property," Ryzhkov said. "State property in its classic form should account for approximately 30 per cent ... railways, power stations, gas pipelines ... these things should always belong to the state."

"Incidentally, in many capitalist countries, this also lies in the hands of the state," he added.

The prime minister's comments were printed in the Communist Party daily Pravda on Saturday alongside a new property law, put up for public discussion, which for the first time gives a legal basis to various types of non-state property.

But Ryzhkov insisted that "exploitation of one person by another" could not be allowed, apparently ruling out the private hiring of workers and making clear the Soviet leadership was not about to reinstate the capitalist system it swept aside in 1917.

Ryzhkov said state ownership should be replaced by shareholding, co-operatives and leasing as well as "individual" property — the nearest official Soviet terminology gets to what is known elsewhere as private property.

"Until now, when he talked about individual property, we thought only about the consumption sphere," he added.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD exchange rates slightly firmer against the dollar

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate was slightly firmer against the dollar ending the week at 298.35 fils compared with its week before last closing of 298.61 fils. The KD was higher against the Pound sterling, ending the week at 471.62 fils compared with its week before last closing of 474.28 fils. The KD was slightly lower against the DM ending the week at 162.08 fils compared with its week before last closing of 161.85 fils. The KD was higher against the SFR ending the week at 183.55 fils compared with the week before last closing of 184.56 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 435.55 fils compared with its week before last closing of 432.77 fils. The KD was higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As to the KD money market, short term interbank offer rates traded relatively lower over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week within 8.50 per cent to 8.56 per cent range compared with 8.50 per cent to 8.75 range the week before last. Three-month interbank rates also traded lower within 8.50 per cent to 8.56 per cent range compared with 8.50 per cent to 8.68 per cent range the week before last. Rates for longer periods traded within the same narrow range of 8.50 per cent to 8.56 per cent for both 6 and 12 months respectively.

The CBK announced its new T-Bill issue No. (79) of KD150 million, with effective and maturity dates of November 22, 1989 and February 21, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock markets moved higher over last week on renewed interest in takeover stocks, firmer bond prices, the growing belief the Fed is easing credit policy and news that General Electric Co. plans to buy back \$10 billion of its own stock. Also Hewlett Packard's better-than-expected fiscal 4th quarter earnings also gave technology issues a lift in the week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2626 and closed higher at 2653, recording a gain of 27 points over the previous week's closing of 2626.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange eased earlier in the week on programme selling and ahead of the Chancellor's Autumn statement on the UK economy, which received a favourable reception by the London Equity market. Later in the week, equities failed to maintain their early firmness, notwithstanding the excellent trading statements from blue chip names. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2218 and closed higher at 2223, recording a gain of 2 points over the previous week's closing of 2221.

US dollar

The US dollar over the week traded mixed within a narrow range. Weak US October retail sales as well as industrial production data, caused the Dollar to fall, while the release of better than expected US trade data helped push the Dollar back upward.

US trade deficit for the month of September fell to \$7.9 billion against a revised \$10.1 billion for the month of August. The September trade deficit is the lowest deficit recorded in almost five years, when the deficit reached \$6.8 billion back in December 1984. The narrowing of US trade deficit, was a result of 3.9 per cent decline in imports against 1.9 per cent increase in exports. US imports for the month of September reached \$39.0 billion while exports increased to \$31.1 billion for the same month. US trade for the month of October fell 1 per cent, (matching its forecast), against a 0.7 per cent rise in September. A hefty 5.1 per cent drop in auto sales last month depressed the overall retail sales figures. The October US retail sales figure is the biggest drop since January of 1987.

US industrial production for the month of October fell 0.7 per cent, which is higher than market expectation of 0.2 per cent decline. Industrial production for the previous month (September) was reported flat. Capacity utilisation for October was recorded at 82.8 per cent, below the projected 83.3 per cent and against 83.6 recorded in September.

Pound sterling

The Pound opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.5815/25 and closed lower at \$1.5665/75 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.5765/75.

French franc

The French Franc opened the week against the dollar at 6.3105/25 FFR and closed sharply lower at 6.2620/40 FFR, compared to its week before last closing of 6.3250/70 FFR. French consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent in October, after rising 0.2 per cent in September, putting year-on-year inflation between 3.5 per cent and 3.6 per cent against 3.4 per cent in September.

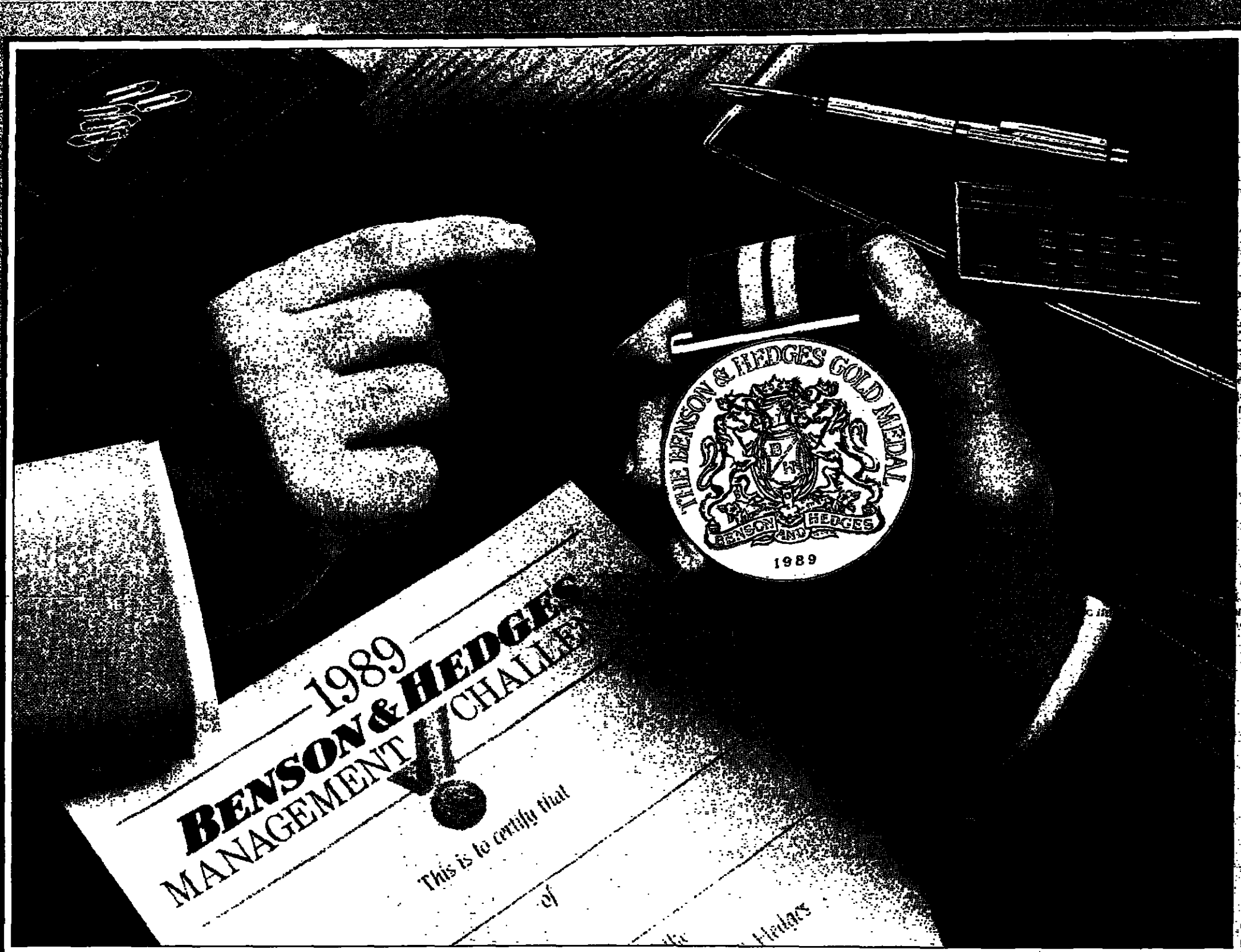
Precious metals

Precious metals prices advanced last week on professional and investor buying. Broker Kleinwort Benson said in its latest review that the rally in gold prices has broken the metal's two-year bear trend. A slow gradual recovery is not forecast. Fundamentals are supportive: rising mining costs are reducing supplies, off-take for jewellery is at historically high levels and pressure is easing from gold loan selling by miners.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$399.75/390.25 \$/oz and closed higher at \$392.50/392.50 \$/oz, recording a gain of 6.25 \$/oz over the previous week's closing of \$385.75/386.25 \$/oz.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$5.31/5.33 \$/oz and closed higher at \$5.38/5.60 \$/oz, but recorded a gain of 34 cents over the previous week's closing of \$5.24/5.26 \$/oz.

Platinum prices opened the week at \$507.50/510.50 \$/oz and closed higher at \$514.50/515.50 \$/oz, recording a gain of 14 \$/oz over the previous week's closing of \$500.50/501.50 \$/oz.

Congratulations to the 1989 Grand Final Winner
Benson & Hedges Management Challenge

U. Asif, B. Menon and B. Menon of National Heaters Industries Co. Ltd. from Oman being presented with the Benson & Hedges Management Challenge Award by Mr. Tony Liddle, Personnel Director of Benson & Hedges.

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London is changing

Nostalgia boom

LONDON, (AP): London is undergoing its biggest transformation since it climbed out of the rubble of World War II.

From the East End and King's Cross to the westerly Thames-side districts of Chelsea, Fulham and Putney, the capital is changing as the post-industrial age overtakes Britain.

Fleet St. is no longer the main street for newspaper offices. Covent Garden, where Eliza Doolittle sold her flowers, is a chic shopping and eating mall. The once sooty East End and Hackney are becoming yuppie country. Soho is losing its strip joints and going classy.

The 121-mile (195-kms) orbital, the world's longest beltway, was completed three years ago and is opening up new suburbs for Londoners who can no longer afford skyrocketing house prices.

At the same time, the nostalgia boom is bringing back suburbanites to the inner cities in search of old Georgian and Victorian properties to refurbish.

Struggling

The Docklands, once the world's largest shipping hub, is now Europe's biggest urban renewal project, although struggling with traffic and start-up problems. Rundown King's Cross in the heart of the capital will soon get a similar facelift with the bulldozing of 135 acres (55 hectares) of decayed Georgian and Victorian buildings, rail sidings and warehouses.

King's Cross may become the terminus of the rail tunnel being dug to link Britain and France, and high-speed trains thundering up from the English Channel promise yet more profound change for London.

The entrepreneurial forces unleashed by a decade of government by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her Conservatives, are evident in this "flower of cities all," as the 16th-century poet William Dunbar called it.

"There's a fantastic amount of money about after 10 years of Thatcher's enterprise culture and lots more has come to London from abroad because developers consider Britain a safe bet," said realtor Joss MacLeod.

There is also a growing homelessness problem. The government puts the number at 23,000. Shelter, a charity, estimates it is nearer 40,000.

Some things never change: Big Ben, still keeping time, precisely; taxi drivers, who can still refuse to go beyond the six-mile (9.6-kms) limit set in Victorian times to spare the horses; London's three royal palaces, five great parks and timeless landmarks, such as St. Paul's Cathedral and Nelson's column.

It's still a city where the emphasis is on community, and most Londoners eschew ostentation. No. 10 Downing St., the prime minister's address, is just an ordinary door with a policeman outside.

Development

The development boom uncovers extraordinary relics: the foundations of William Shakespeare's Globe and Rose Theatre at Southwark; prehistoric flints and arrowheads by Waterloo train station; a Saxon settlement under the strand, a Tudor workman's hut near London bridge.

London has a population of 6.7 million, plus 21 million tourists a year, but no mayor; indeed, the city of London means no

more than the business district, which has a figurehead Lord Mayor whose writ doesn't run outside its square mile (three square kms).

The rest of the capital is the sum of its 32 boroughs, each independent, with no over-arching authority to solve critical problems of traffic congestion and litter.

The left-led Greater London Council was abolished in 1986 as part of Thatcher's crusade against socialism, and now "London looks out of control... it's divide and rule with 32 fiefdoms and no forum for debating London-wide issues," says Judy Hillman, an urban affairs consultant and author of "A New Look for London."

Fleet St. seems deadlier than yesterday's headline now that publishers have moved to new high-tech facilities in the Docklands and elsewhere.

In the city, imposing Victorian counting houses jostle against ultra-modern architecture, such as the glass-and-tube headquarters of the Lloyd's insurance market.

Boulevard

The great shopping boulevard of Oxford St. still attracts shoppers from all over the world. But canny Londoners now head for the new American-style malls with free parking spaces.

Harry Shepherd, 66, who heads the storekeepers' Oxford Street Association, grew up in London's East End when it was poor and tough, and regrets the decline of London's community spirit.

"It's because society itself has changed and become more selfish," he said.

The subway system, the world's largest, is so crowded that it is raising fares to reduce passenger loads, meaning automobiles clogging a road system so resistant to expansion that village lanes become major thoroughfares.

The construction frenzy means rocketing land prices and rents, with houses in Mayfair, Belgrave and Hampstead fetching up to \$4.7 million.

"The centre and the well-known areas like Chelsea and Knightsbridge have become too expensive for anyone unless they belong to the international network," said Miss Hillman.

"Londoners used to move very little. Now they are moving everywhere."

On Savile Row, where the well-heeled get their suits at £1,000 (\$1,500) apiece, tailors have been deprived of their light-industry status, exposing them to crippling rent hikes.

The Thatcher government has told the tailors to adapt to market forces or "go to Hounslow," a sentence-of-death suburb 11 miles (18 kms) away.

Message

The sex shops and massage parlours of once sooty Soho are being replaced by smart restaurants, shops and designer offices. Gerhard St. is the hub of a thriving Chinatown with all-night eating houses. Nearby, the West End offers its endless outpouring of musicals and quality drama.

Some London traditionalists dislike the changes. Prince Charles among them.

The heir to the throne and self-appointed arbiter of British architectural taste accuses post-war developers of doing more damage to London than Hitler's air force.



Madonna another leifdown

Acting acclaim, not yet

Madonna puts her ego on the line

MEGA-SUCCESS as a singer has never been enough for high priestess of pop Madonna. She craves acting applause, too.

Time and again, she has offered herself up as a human sacrifice to the critics. Again and again, they have devoured her.

Now her jinx-hit film career is facing another let-down.

Madonna was pinning all her hopes on Dick Tracy, co-starring and directed by Warren Beatty. But Beatty has been hit with a crippling lawsuit brought by four top Hollywood production companies who claim they own the film rights because Beatty broke an agreement over profits.

Beatty, who fell in love with Madonna on the set and is now also co-starring in her life, has vowed to fight the claim all the way, but even if he wins, it will probably delay the release planned for next summer.

There has already been talk in Hollywood that there was nothing to hold up its release this year — except a fear that it was not strong enough to compete in an exceptional field with the likes of Batman and Indiana Jones.

And insiders are speculating about why Madonna, who certainly doesn't need the money, wanted to put her ego on the line again.

Material Girl sold more than 60 million records and made her one of America's top earners. Her debut album was in the US charts for a staggering 12 months. Her second made triple platinum in just 14 weeks.

She notched up 17 consecutive Top Ten singles, five of which were number ones. Last year, she came second only to Mary Tyler Moore in the high-earning women-in-showbiz stakes with an estimated take of \$30 million.

But most of that came from a phenomenal concert tour. Had she concentrated on music and given acting a miss, she might have come even closer to Tyler Moore's staggering \$82 million.

Instead, she invested months in a Broadway play, Speed the Plough, only to be rewarded with the headline in the New York Daily News: "No, she can't act."

Beneath which, critic Howard Kissel praised the play's elegance, direction, clarity and wit and concluded: "I bet it would be even funnier with an actress in it."

"Her ineptitude is scandalously thorough," said CBS reviewer, Dennis Cunningham.

Sophisticated New York audiences walked out complaining of her amateurism or stayed in their seats and laughed at it.

Yet if the 31-year-old professional strumpet with a lust for acclaim found it tough to take, there was daily therapy on tap for her as she drove to and from the theatre in her black stretch limo complete with entourage.

Mobs of Wannabees were gathered around the stage door for a glimpse, stopping traffic and infuriating the police who had to hold them back and attempt to keep the city moving.

Last year was not much better. Madonna was voted Worst Actress of the Year, for the second year running.

She got the Golden Raspberry for her role in Who's That Girl. One critic described her performance as "fraternizingly bad." And speculation was mounting that her latest film, Bloodhounds of Broadway, with Matt Dillon and Jennifer Grey was so bad it might never be released.

The year before she had bombed with audiences and critics in Shanghai Surprise co-starring her ex-husband, Sean Penn.

One American critic called the film "awesome in its awfulness, momentous in its ineptness, shattering in its stupidity."

But nothing and nobody seems able to convince her she should capitalize on her strengths and forget what she does badly — or at least sign up for acting lessons before she tries again.

"I wanted to be a superstar from the word go," she says. "One of my idols was Marilyn Monroe. I've always wanted to leave the kind of impression that Marilyn did, to arouse so many different feelings in people."

The birth of the pop video has narrowed the gap between pop performer and actor-actress. Madonna is not the first to attempt to cross the bridge.

She made the transition in stages. In Vision Quest, her only films were in her songs.

Even before that, there had been a soft porn film, A Certain Sacrifice, made back in 1980 before the desperately ambitious Madonna had achieved celebrity status. It was later to come back to haunt — and infuriate — her.

She tried, unsuccessfully, to have it banned.

Her first major film was Desperately Seeking Susan, for which she had her first and last good reviews. With hindsight, perhaps she came across with such convincing cheeky, bounce because she was simply playing herself.

Whatever the explanation, it gave her a taste for the glamour of movies and movie-making that she has never been able to suppress since.

She said: "To be honest, I like all the glamour and attention of making movies. It makes me feel good. I have a lot of energy I've always wanted to pour into acting."

She formed her own production company, Siren Films, and named her first project, Angel Flight, a romantic thriller set on a train. So far, not a single frame has been shot.

Madonna also wants to do a remake of the Marlene Dietrich classic, The Blue Angel, and has asked Diane Keaton to direct it.

But one of the most bitter blows of all has been losing the role of Evita in the film of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical of the same name for which she refused to screen test.

The makers had already decided that if they did go ahead, they would insist on a "good behaviour clause" under which if Madonna arrived late or caused delays she could be fired or face a pay cut.

That followed the problems on the set of George Harrison film, Shanghai Surprise, which had the crew tearing out their hair even before the critics unleashed their fire.

At one point, producer Harrison had to fly to China to act as peacemaker and quell the storms caused by the Poison Punks.

If Madonna the Wannabee film star has been sailing through stormy water, her videos have been in trouble, too.

The British Cable Authority's decision that too-sexy videos like her Like A Virgin cannot go out before 10 pm is just the latest in a long line of bans and protests.

In the wake of Like A Prayer's release in April, Pepsi Cola dropped a television advertisement for which Madonna had been paid \$3 million, after a single US showing. Opponents labelled the video blasphemous and threatened Pepsi with a boycott if they carried on using the ad.

Of course such tongue-lashings for the raunchy singer from the older generation only serve to enhance her appeal in the eyes of the fans, many now only half her age, to whom she is a role model of successful non-conformity.

But record sales are not enough for the third of eight children of an Italian-American family who at five told her father she was going to New York to be famous and at just 17 packed her \$35 savings and large baby doll and went.

It took her just five years to "scratch and claw my way up" from a cockroach-infested slum tenement to an apartment with a view over Central Park and a fortress mansion in the Hollywood Hills.

"I don't believe in pussy-footing about," she said. "I'm tough, ambitious, and I know exactly what I want. If that makes me a bitch, okay."

'I don't write every day. I have to be in mood'

Durrell still writing from French sanctuary

SOMMIERES, France, (Reuter): Still writing despite increasing infirmity, British novelist Lawrence Durrell has found peace of mind in the riverside sanctuary he stumbled on more than 30 years ago.

Author of the evocative "Alexandria Quartet," which chronicles the decadence of the former Egyptian capital, Durrell lives modestly in Sommieres, a picturesque town surrounded by vineyards near Nîmes in southern France.

Durrell, 77, is a small, frail-looking man who suffers from emphysema, which makes breathing difficult. He moves slowly, and wheezes slightly as he

talks. But his blue eyes are constantly alight with amusement and the conversation runs on easily.

His illness has prevented him from writing much lately. "I don't write every day. I have to be in the mood," Durrell says. "It's a voluptuous thing. I almost feel guilty about doing it."

Durrell settled in Sommieres in 1957, and bought his present home a few years later. Set in a heavily-walled garden dark with trees, it looks from the road like the sort of haunted house children invent stories about to scare themselves.

"I came here quite by accident," Durrell recalls. "I was

broke. I wanted to live in France, which I regard as a sanctuary, and try my luck with writing."

"No-one wanted (the house), so I got it cheap," Durrell says. "Every year water from the floods reached half way up the walls. But I knew a dam was being built higher up. Now only the cellar is flooded."

Inside, the house has a pleasantly ramshackle atmosphere. There are a few photographs of friends: the tramp "Blanco," hero of a film Durrell made for television, and local herbalist Ludo Chardonon, the "Plant Magic Man" about whom he has written. He is willing to swear by Ludo's remedies.

A hollow bust of a man sits on the hall table, wearing several hats and bonnets at a rakish angle. "It's Dante, dead drunk," Durrell jokes.

Later he unwinds from it a woollen scarf he wraps around his own neck before going out into the chilly autumn wind.

Married four times, Durrell now shares the big house with his companion Francoise Kestman, who met him when she opened a restaurant in Sommieres several years ago.

The conversation switches back and forth from English to French, which Durrell manipulates with elegance, though he says he speaks it badly.

Best known for the four-novel masterpiece which has now been translated into 20 languages, Durrell has also turned his hand to travel books — including "Bitter Lemons" and "The Greek Islands" and poetry. He has also published an exchange of letters with his American writer friend Henry Miller who died in 1980.

Durrell's latest book, about Provence, is due to be published towards the end of next year.

He expresses admiration for his compatriots Graham Greene and Anthony Burgess, writers who have also chosen to live near the Mediterranean, Greene in Antibes and Burgess in the prin-

cipality of Monaco. Durrell has not met either of them.

"Graham Greene is a hero for me," he said. "His writings are clear and honest."

Durrell's younger brother Gerald, the famous zoologist, is a constant source of jokes. Lawrence is amused at the attention often paid to him because he is Gerald's brother.

Gerald's humorous book My Family and Other Animals, about the Durrell family's years on the Greek island of Corfu before the war, was a best-seller, as were subsequent books about animals. He also owns a house near Nîmes.

Sorbonne keeps intellectual spell despite decline

The seat of knowledge is a magic word everywhere in the world

ARIS, (AP): The Sorbonne, established a century of learning at a time when scholars risked being burned for sorcery, shown an uncanny knack for keeping intellectual reputation despite 200 years of decline.

But the reputation abroad is a long way from the reality at home.

"Sorbonne is a magic word everywhere in the world because of the tradition of intellectual excellence that it represents. It is a symbol," said its rector, Michelle Gendreau-Massoloux, whose travels on behalf of the university have taken her recently to Boston, Berlin and Bombay.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev chose the Sorbonne's amphitheatre as the setting for meeting French intellectuals; Chinese elites gathered there to organise a new movement for democracy. Millions of foreign visitors wouldn't consider a

trip to Paris complete without buying a "Sorbonne University" sweatshirt, sold by independent entrepreneurs.

Yet top students regard today's Sorbonne as seedy and second-rate and a wrong turn on the road to success in French government or industry.

The Sorbonne, founded more than 700 years ago, and the other national universities are considered poor relations to the five so-called Grandes Ecoles, unabashedly elitist training grounds for the sons and daughters of the well-heeled.

Students train and compete like Olympic athletes for the 100,000 places available in the Grandes Ecoles. Unlike the state-run university system that accommodates more than 1 million students, the Grandes Ecoles offer smaller classes, better facilities and the sort of lifelong networking typical of

Oxford, Cambridge or America's Ivy League.

One-third of the leaders of France's 50 biggest companies come from a single school, the Ecole Polytechnique. The cabinets of President Francois Mitterrand have been dominated by graduates of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, including Ms. Gendreau-Massoloux who was Mitterrand's spokeswoman before taking the rector's job at the Sorbonne.

The Sorbonne and other state universities must accept anyone who has passed the difficult high school exit exam, the "Baccalaureat," and pays the annual tuition of 450 francs (\$73). As a result, the schools are overcrowded, underfunded and suffer a high dropout rate.

Two thousand students stood in lines for hours this year hoping for one of the

1,100 places available to study English and Spanish.

Seats are hard to find in Sorbonne's lofty library with the beamed neo-Renaissance ceilings. Benches are scarce in the central courtyard outside the Sorbonne church, erected in 1642 and containing the marble tomb of Cardinal Richelieu.

Halls, lavatories and public spaces in the four-storey building on the Rue des Ecoles are jammed. More than 37,000 students, including 6,000 foreigners, fill the school's 22 lecture halls, 22 museums, 16 examination halls, 22 lecture rooms, 37 rooms for the teaching staff, laboratories, a library, a physics tower, an astronomy tower and offices.

Faded allegorical murals, the gilded sundial and the sweeping stairway at the entrance to the school may wow the

tourists. But French students are not impressed.

They ranked the Sorbonne 18th on the list of 78 state-run schools judged on ambience, quality of instruction and job prospects, in a poll conducted among 14,500 students this past summer by the newspaper Le Monde.

Sixty per cent of the Sorbonne students polled doubted their education would make it easier to find jobs.

The beginning of the decline can be traced to the French Revolution in 1789 when the school lost much of its status along with a precious library that was moved to the national archives.

Napoleon dented the Sorbonne's prestige by setting up his own school. In the early 19th century, Latin ceased to be the official language of scholarship, and

more specialised schools for the elite opened their doors.

Following the student riots of May 1968, the University of Paris was reorganised into 13 mini-universities funded and administered by the state. The Sorbonne building was allocated to house two individual university campuses, schools of history, arts and letters and foreign languages.

Despite the changes in the school itself, the surrounding left bank neighbourhood remains the unchallenged domain of students.

In the Sorbonne's early days, "nations" of young scholars, distinguished from each other by marks of provincial dress and accent, strolled along the banks of the Seine, arguing logic or devising syllogisms.

ARAB TIMES GRAND

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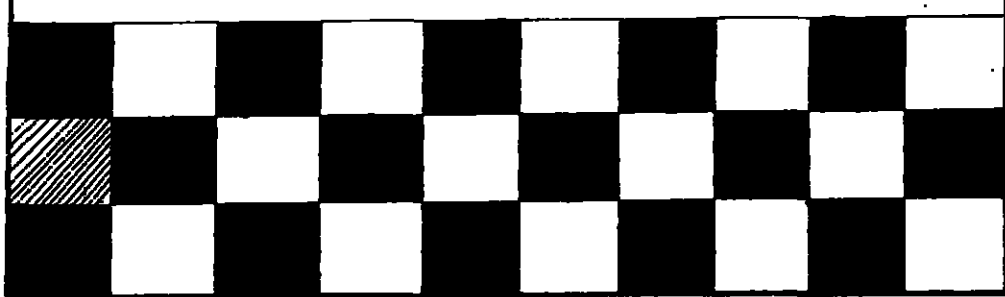
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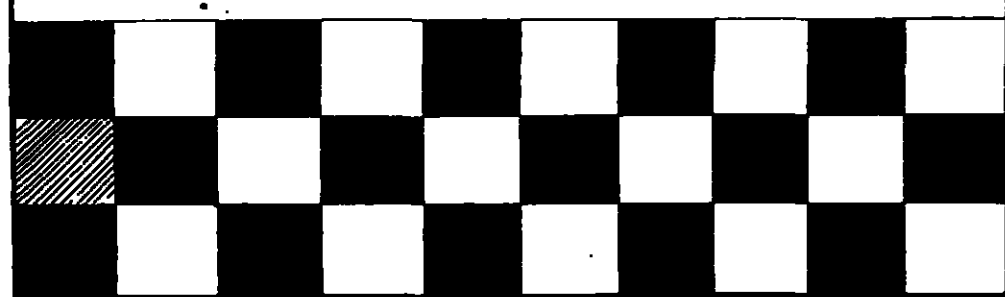
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BUNGEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

'It's an amazing sensation'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, (CSM): "Bungeeeeeeeee!" howls Charles as he plummets head first with only a wad of giant rubber bands lashed to his ankles to arrest his fall.

Moments later he's standing on the ground. His face fixed with the "post-bungy" grin. "It's an amazing sensation; being counted down to zero and then launching yourself off into space," says the gangly 18-year-old. After his fourth jump, he adds: "It's a clean, safe buzz. Better than a lot of self-abusive thrills."

Charles is one of thousands of New Zealanders taking the plunge into bungy jumping.

In fact, with more than 18,000 paying customers, the Kiwis assert this is "The Bungy Jumping Capital of the World."

Otherwise sane folks are paying NZ\$25-\$189 (US\$15-\$113) to nose-dive off bridges, towers, and viaducts. Publicity stunts have been done off an Auckland, New Zealand, skyscraper and the Auckland Harbour Bridge. The New Zealand Army is looking into the merits of bungy jumping as a training exercise for soldiers.

The craze can be traced to New Zealander Allan John (A.J.) Hackett, considered the pioneer of commercial jumping. Hackett first gained notoriety in 1986 by leaping off a ski gondola in France. His best-known stunt was a 110-metre (360 foot) free fall, in formal attire, off the Eiffel Tower into the waiting arms of Paris' gendarmes. More recently he's done television commercials.

Hackett's inspiration came from the Oxford University Dangerous Sports Club, which bungy-jumped from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge in 1979.

The sport's origins can be traced further, to generations of jumpers on Petenecost Island, part of the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu. There, "land diving" is part of an annual pagan ritual to ensure a good yam harvest. It's also considered a proof of courage. With springy vines tied to their ankles, young men take headlong dives from an 80-foot high tower built around a tree. Injuries, say locals, seldom occur.

Instead of vines, New Zealand jumpers use hundreds of rubber strands to form a cable as thick as a person's wrist. As the strands stretch, all of the shock of the fall is absorbed. There's no painful jolt. "no limbs pulled from their sockets," assures one jumper. And the length of the elastic cord and ankle straps are based on exact weight-to-strength calculations.

"We've had no accidents in more than 15,000 commercial jumps," claims Hackett's partner and co-developer Henri van Asch. He credits a three-year ongoing programme of research and development of equipment and safety standards.

But recently, one of Hackett's own operators was injured during a promotional jump off a crane when his harness came loose. In France, where four people have died, bungy jumping was banned. Hackett has just returned from France, where he got the ban lifted for bungy operations that comply with strict new standards.

But Van Asch is concerned that "amateurs" jumping on the commercial bandwagon may yet cause a serious accident or death in New Zealand. His company is spearheading moves to establish nation-wide safety standards.

Heavy Rubber Bungy Jumping Ltd. (which offers 16 to 24 metre jumps over indoor pools and from a tower) freely admits to two minor accidents which occurred when people were being lowered after their jumps.

The company, under new ownership, has put additional safety measures in place. "Safety is paramount. The equipment is checked daily. Safety comes before anything," says Paul Stieglbauer of Heavy Rubber.

A.J. Hackett's record isn't unmarred. The New Zealand



A Bungy jumper plunges to earth in New Zealand tethered by a giant rubber band lashed to his ankles.

Bungy!

The Deck

A high platform, usually over water. The drop from New Zealand's popular Kawarau Bridge is 143 feet.

The Bungy

A custom-crafted bundle of high-quality latex strands — actually a single strand doubled many times over — that absorbs the stress of the fall in three or four bounces.

The Harness and Deck System

Designed for safety. The whole rig is carefully calculated for a specific jumper's weight and the height of the jump.

The Jumper

Enjoys (1) several seconds of falling and bouncing; (2) the sudden shock at the end.

The Bungy jump thrill

WALLINGTON, New Zealand: I'm standing on a platform made of six planks strapped to the steel rafters of the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre. I've climbed up a ladder, crawled through an air duct and up a catwalk. The swimming pool is a distant 16 metres (52.4 feet or about four stories) below.

"Dave, meet your brakeman. This is Alf," says Paul.

Correction. I think to myself. This is nuts. Alf smiles reassuringly and I hand him my jump sheet containing my consent signature, vital statistics, and address. I step on a bathroom scale. Alf scribbles down my weight and grabs a tan snake of rubber bands.

"You weigh 67 kilos. So we use a jump weight of 70 kilos. That's a medium bungy plus an 800-mil leg webbing," says Paul.

I nod dumbly.

"Alf makes the system selection. Then I double check him. I'm your jump master," says Paul.

Jump Master? Does that make me the Jump

Slave? Why am I trusting my life to some long-haired kid I've known all of 20 minutes?

"Suppose I don't want to jump?"

"Basically, we give you a few countdowns."

purs the Jump Master. "We talk for a while. It soon becomes obvious if a person doesn't want to go. Some people can do it, other can't. We don't criticize. For some people, coming up here is a big achievement in itself."

By now, my legs are lashed together with a blue nylon strap clipped to the huge rubber band.

"We should be getting a hand touch to 500 millimetres above a hand touch, depending on the wall you fall. If you fall straight like a tree, you'll get a hand touch. But if you bend your knees as a little bit of fear creeps in, then you'll definitely be a little bit above the water."

I shuffle slowly out into position. There's a pair of bare feet pencilled on the edge of the creamy plywood platform. Heart racing. Shouts and splashes from below echo off the egg-white tile and glass windows. Billy Joel is crooning on the radio.

Rapid swallows. Mouth parched.

"Grab the rope overhead," orders Paul.

Why am I doing this? I had no intention of doing this. I've got plenty of thrills in my life. I don't need this. "Oh, I see. You're another

journalist who can write about something

without actually doing it," Paul said when I got here. Professional integrity on the line.

How does The Lord's Prayer go?

"Don't look down. Eyes forward. Legs straight," Paul commands. "OK. Dave. Here we go. Five. Four. Three. Two. One. Bungy!"

This first split second is agony. Hey... it's not half bad, now that I'm committed.

The water rushes to my face before I can fully appreciate the ride. My outstretched hands touch the water. Suddenly, I'm being pulled back towards the rafters.

Then I hang, dangling upside a few metres above the pool, like an animal caught in a Daniel Boone trap. Spinning. Smiling. Elated.

The brake man lowers me into a yellow raft in the middle of the pool. I undip the bungy and the retriever pulls the raft to the pool's edge. I climb out and stand there with slightly rubbery legs and a silly grin.

I feel great! It was petrifying at first, but I did it. Did everyone see that? I bet it's possible to do this with no fear. I'm sure I could do this again without feeling like a ninny. "Hey, Jump Master..."

The Christian Science Monitor

executives in France.

Hackett's company is on the verge of expanding into Australia. Chris Allum, another partner, doubts they will branch out into the United States. "The public liability insurance is too high to make it profitable," he says.

Woody Allen presents a blend of humorous, serious drama

MOVIE genius Woody Allen presents a fascinating blend of his humorous and serious sides in his latest film as he compromises between his outrageous early comedies and the straighter dramas of more recent years.

Crimes and Misdemeanours is the 19th film that Allen, 54, has written and directed.

Like much of his previous work, it deals with complicated and interwoven relationships with a glamorous Manhattan setting.

It also features some of the Woody Allen stock company, including lover Mia Farrow. The film marks the tenth time Allen has worked with her. Since making A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy in 1981, they have worked exclusively with each other.

Making their first appearances in a Woody Allen film are Mash star Alan Alda, Martin Landau, Anjelica Huston

and Claire Bloom.

Martin Landau stars as Judah Rosenthal — a famous ophthalmologist and philanthropist. He is married to Miriam (Claire Bloom), but is having a secret affair with Dolores, an unstable flight attendant played by Anjelica Huston.

Woody Allen plays a bitter documentary film maker who is unhappily married. Alan Alda is Lester, his smarmy brother-in-law. Both are courting Hally Reed (Mia Farrow), a ruthlessly ambitious TV producer, who is somehow sweet and vulnerable, too.

Crimes and Misdemeanours is a story about people and the way they choose to live their lives. But it also contains a cruel murder. And, naturally, there is much humour, especially in Allen's portrayal of the frustrated lover.

"The last time I was inside a woman," recalls Allen's character, "I was in the Statue of Liberty."

The film provided its stars with challenging roles. But it was the opportunity to work with Woody Allen that attracted Academy Award winning actress Anjelica Huston and Alan Alda.

Anjelica, whose father was director John Huston, explains: "I took this role in part because it offered me the opportunity to try something I'd never done before as an actress. But more importantly it provided me with the chance to work with Woody Allen."

Sweet Liberty star Alan Alda adds: "Working with Woody was quite fascinating, exciting, and often intuitive."

The film's star, Martin Landau, studied at Len Strassberg's world-renowned Actor's Studio in the Fifties, along with Steve McQueen. He says of director Woody Allen: "There is a chemistry between the two of us. One that rarely needed words to express a need."

"Woody encourages actors to bring a

certain input to their characters, and he is very much of the school that casts a part as closely to life as he can.

"Nothing seems haphazard to Woody. — he is very much of a mind of what he is going to do, and what he wants."

Allen explains his preference for using Mia Farrow again and again: "In trying to create things for a particular actress, it stretches them and it also stretches me."

"It's more fun to work because it has an exploratory quality to it and you don't get stale doing the same thing. And Mia has the ability to play a wide range of roles."

Mia, who gave birth to their son, Satchel, last year admits that Allen's confidence in her ability has been great boon to her career. She says: "Working with Woody was the most ideal thing that could happen to an actress. Woody changed my view of my work, just by assuming that I could do all these things."

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(AT1-50327-3) RUMATHIYA, Block 6. Spacious Kuwaiti house with full facilities for a Muslim couple, to share with a Muslim family. Tel: 5611308

(AT2-50327-3) KUWAIT City, near the GPO, rooms, furnished/unfurnished with kitchen and AC facilities for families/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Tel: 3728152, after 6pm.

(AT3-50385-2)

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Villas, half villas, flats, complete buildings, offices in all areas in Kuwait with or without swimming pool

Qatar Real Estate
Tel: 2406592, 2406593

DAIYA Abdulla Al Salem for European executive family, 2 floors of large CAC villa. Newly furnished and decorated. Interested please Tel: 2528572

(AT2-50381-4) KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the City Restaurant. One room in a double bedroom CAC flat with tele., electricity and water, for 3 Indian bachelors. Rent KD30 each. Tel: Hussain, 2427548, res 9 am - 1 pm, 2448860, 5 - 9 pm. (AT1-50322-3)

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(AT1-50313-3)

Cars

AUSTIN Montego, 1987 model, red, automatic, low mileage, in excellent condition. Tel: 5824509, after 2 pm.

(AT1-50307-3) NISSAN Stanza, 1984, automatic, AC, grey, 4 doors, hatch-back, sunroof, 74,000 kms, insured up to Aug 1990, in good condition, KD750, cash or instalments. Tel: 2451478

(AT1-50304-3) NISSAN Liberta, 1.8 SGL, 1984, 46,000 kms, silver/dark red, four doors, hatch-back, sunroof, fully automatic, AC and stereo system, driven by a lady, in showroom condition. KD950. Tel: 4884485 (AT1-50305-3)

GALANT 1988 model, manual, white, single owner, in good condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD600 for owner, KD98 monthly for 12 instalments. Tel: 329078, (res).

(AT3-50356-3)

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Representatives for an advertising and promotion company. Jaleel Al Shiyokh - Qursah Complex, near National Bank of Kuwait, Office No. 23. Call personally daily from 8.00 - 8.00 pm.

REQUIRED

A full time SALESMAN for a video shop. Must have good command over Arabic and English (writing and reading). Must have a transferable residence. Aamer Video - Old Kheitan - Block 4 - Street No. 37. Tel: 5620286

REQUIRED

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MERCEDES Benz 280S, 1985, full options, dark blue, 55,000 kms, immaculately maintained by AI Bisher for immediate sale. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD9800 (fixed). Tel: 2406487 10 am - 1 pm. (AT2-50330-3)

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NAME CHANGE

I, Younes Auguste holding Pakistani passport No. AJ 013005 embraced Islam and hereby wish to change my name to Mohammed Younes Auguste.

(AT2-50332-2) I, Salvador Miranda holding Indian passport No. S 718305 hereby wish to change my name to Salvador Antonio Miranda. (AT2-50328-2)

PETS

IM a handsome, house trained and cuddly puppy. I walk with a leash and respond well to training. My owners left me in the desert so I'm looking for a new home. Tel: 5710487.

(AT2-50331-3) 3 Persian cats, 2 months, 5 months and 1 year old. One white and 2 grey, healthy, friendly with long hair. For sale. Tel: 3721297. (AT2-50239-3)

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AVAILABLE from Salwa, Mishrif and Rumathiya, 2 shifts, mornings and evenings for any hospital in Shuwaikh but not for any ministry. Tel: 5631531 after 2pm. (AT3-50380-3)

REQUIRED

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REQUIRED

a female secretary with sound knowledge in correspondence, telex, typing. Contact 2406872 from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

REQUIRED

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4- Elevator Tech: Should have ten years' experience in the Gulf.
5- Elevator Supervisor: Should have minimum fifteen years' experience in Gulf.
6- Accountant: Female, good looking and smart.
7- Secretary: Female, impressive personality, good looking and young.
8- Telephone Attendant: Female, fluent in English and Arabic. Good looking and young.
9- Teacher: Female, able to teach English and Urdu.

NOTE: People in Kuwait and outside can apply.
Manpower agencies can also write to: P.O. Box 3598 Hawalli, Code No. 32066 Kuwait.

SPORTS



Two Atletico fans vote on whether or not their team should boycott their Spanish Cup tie. (Reuter wirephoto)

Barcelona beaten

MADRID, Nov 19, (Reuter): A goal by Spanish international Manolo Sanchez gave Atletico Madrid a 1-0 win and ended a run of success by Barcelona yesterday.

Barcelona had collected 11 points from the last six games to move up to just one point behind arch-rivals and league leaders Real Madrid before this weekend's Spanish First Division match.

Sanchez scored in the 11th minute, deftly driving home a corner from the left.

The rest of the league matches were being played this evening and Barcelona could see Real increase their lead with a relatively easy match away at lowly Tenerife.

Much of the attention yesterday was focused on a vote by Atletico fans on whether to boycott a Spanish Cup second round, second leg match against Real Madrid on November 29.

Atletico president Jesus Gil, who has alleged that biased refereeing gave Real a goalless draw in the first leg at Atletico's stadium and has helped them on other occasions, called on club members to vote yesterday on whether the team should turn up for the second leg.

Some 27,000 members were eligible to vote and Gil said the results, expected tomorrow, would be valid if more than 60 per cent of them had voted.

Italy captain convicted

MILAN, Italy, Nov 19, (Reuter): AC Milan soccer captain Franco Baresi and former manager Nils Liedholm were given jail sentences and fines yesterday in a court case over financial irregularities at the First Division club four years ago.

Former club president Giuseppe Farina and five other soccer players were also among 20 people convicted by the court. Twenty defendants were acquitted.

All those guilty said they would appeal and judicial source said it was unlikely any would have to serve the prison terms.

Baresi, who is also Italy's national team captain and due to play in the World Cup finals in Italy next June, was sentenced to 10 months jail and handed a six million lire (\$4,000) fine for failing to declare to the authorities unofficial payments from the club.

Liedholm was given a one-year jail sentence and eight million lire (\$6,000) fine for tax evasion, and Farina received a five-year prison term and 30 million lire (\$22,000) fine for misappropriation of company funds.

The case involved irregularities in 1984-85 under Farina's presidency.

Chelsea dispel fears of decline

Arsenal laying base for title challenge

LONDON, Nov 19, (Reuter): Arsenal manager George Graham is not unduly worried that the English First Division champions are struggling to find their best form.

He is more concerned that they lay the foundations for another title challenge than entertain at this stage of the season.

Arsenal beat Queen's Park Rangers 3-0 yesterday, their third successive victory, to stay unbeaten at home and take over from a third London side, Chelsea, at the top of the table.

Graham said afterwards: "It is important when you are not playing well to keep picking up results."

"In April or May we may look back and see the results in October and November and think that that was where we did the spadework. There is a lot more entertainment to come from us yet but I thought it was a good professional performance."

Rangers manager Trevor Francis echoed Graham's claim.

"George Graham has a successful formula there and he is going to stick to it. It is very difficult to play against and I am sure they will come close to winning the championship again this season," said Francis, whose side had beaten Liverpool a week earlier.

Rangers lost perhaps their most incisive forward, Mark Falco, who hit the winner against Liverpool, after only 26 minutes and succumbed to goals by Alan Smith, Lee Dixon and Iceland international Siggi Jonsson.

Falco was unconscious for at least 10 minutes after an aerial challenge with Tony Adams and was in hospital under observation last night.

Chelsea, now a point behind Arsenal on 26 points saw an unbeaten home run in the League dating back 26 matches to September last year come to an end.

But they recovered from two Matthew le Tissier goals to draw 2-2 at Southampton, dispelling at least for another week fears of a decline following the departure of coach Ian Porterfield.

Manager Bobby Campbell, however, was optimistic and put the scare down to the side resting on the laurels of their brilliant win at Everton last weekend.

"We were magnificent against Everton and had some wonderful publicity," he said. "There was a bit of a hangover when we had to shake ourselves awake."

Chelsea, who line up with a five-man defence, pushed forward on the flanks through full backs Steve Clarke and Tony Dorico and drew level with goals from Ken Monkou and Kevin Wilson in the space of three minutes.

There were mixed fortunes for players making their First Division debuts with neither goalkeeper Nigel Martyn nor defender Colin Hendry able to prevent their new teams from losing.

Standings

English and Scottish League soccer tables after matches played yesterday (tablets under played, won, draws, lost, goals for, against, points)

English Division One										
Arsenal	14	8	3	3	26	15	27			
Chelsea	14	7	3	4	23	15	24			
Aston Villa	14	7	3	4	23	15	24			
Norwich	14	5	7	2	21	16	22			
Liverpool	12	6	3	3	25	12	21			
Tottenham	14	6	3	5	22	21	21			
Everton	14	6	3	5	21	21	21			
Southampton	14	5	4	5	22	20	20			
Manchester U	13	6	2	5	23	20	20			
Coventry	14	6	2	6	19	20	20			
Notts Forest	14	4	5	5	19	19	19			
Derby	14	5	3	6	17	12	18			
Luton	14	4	5	5	14	17	17			
Wimbledon	14	3	7	4	12	15	16			
Millwall	14	4	3	7	12	15	15			
Crystal P	14	4	3	7	16	30	15			
Charlton	14	3	5	6	11	15	14			
QPR	14	3	5	6	14	14	14			
Sheff Wed	14	3	3	8	17	27	14			
Sheff Wed	14	3	3	8	6	22	12			

English Division Two										
Sheff Wed	18	11	6	1	32	18	39			
Leeds	18	11	5	2	32	19	38			
Newcastle	18	9	6	3	34	20	33			
Sheff Wed	18	9	5	4	31	25	32			
West Ham	18	8	6	4	27	18	30			
Old Ham	18	8	6	4	24	19	30			

Scottish Division One										
St Johnstone	16	11	4	1	34	16	26			
Partick	16	8	5	3	34	16	24			
Airdrie	16	11	2	3	32	16	24			
Hamilton	16	6	6	4	22	24	18			
Clyde	16	6	5	5	19	19	16			
Alloa	16	4	7	5	28	26	15			
Falkirk	16	4	7	5	23	21	15			
Clydebank	16	6	3	7	20	15	15			
Raith	16	6	3	7	21	26	15			
Morton	16	2	9	5	15	20	13			
Ayr	16	3	7	6	21	30	13			
Meadowbank	16	3	6	7	16	23	12			
Forfar	16	1	7	8	19	32	9			
Albion	16	2	5	9	15	32	9			

Scottish Division Two										
Brechin	15	8	3	4	21	15	19			
Dumfries	15	8	3	4	20	29	19			
Kilmarnock	15	8	2	5	18	9	18			
Stenhouse	15	9	0	6	23	19	18			
Stranraer	15	7	4	4	25	23	18			
Arbroath	15	5	7	3	22	17	17			
Stirling	15	7	2	6	28	20	16			
East Fife	15	5	5	5	23	20	15			
Queen's Park	15	6	3	6	21	23	15			
Queen of S	15	4	3	8	25	30	13			
Berwick	15	4	3	8	21	24	11			
Montrose	15	4	3	8	16	22	11			
Cowdenbeath	15	2	6	7	19	26	10			
Elgin	15	3	4	8	15	27	10			



Davis buried

Canadian swimming team members (left to right) Mike West, Mark Tewksbury, Sandy Goss, Alex Baumann, Tom Ponting and Valastina Cerny carry Victor Davis' coffin from the church following funeral service in Ontario, Canada, yesterday. Davis, a past Olympic gold medal winner, died on Nov 11 from injuries sustained after being hit by a car. (Reuter wirephoto)

Belloumi pays bail

CARIO, Nov 19, (Reuter): An Arab soccer star accused of partially blinding an Egyptian doctor following Algeria's defeat in a World Cup qualifying match was leaving Egypt today after paying bail.

Head of the Algerian soccer delegation Bessol Ahmed said the player, Lakhdar Belloumi, would leave Egypt with the rest of his team.

Egyptian state prosecutors ordered Belloumi arrested after a glass was thrown at the doctor who was blinded in his right eye.

Sources at the state prosecutors office said Belloumi was charged with attacking and causing permanent disability to the doctor in Friday's incident.

The sources added Belloumi was questioned on the incident yesterday and released on bail of 10,000 Egyptian pounds (\$3,800) pending further enquiries. They said Belloumi denied being involved.

France defeat Cyprus

TOULOUSE, France, Nov 19, (Reuter): France wrapped up the European World Cup qualifiers with a meagre 2-0 victory over a defence-minded Cyprus yesterday in a match which had no effect on the final standings in Group Five.

Goals from Didier Deschamps in the 25th minute and substitute Lurent Blanc 15 minutes from time were small reward for France's domination of the match and did little to inspire confidence in the future of Michel Platini's young team.

The victory also came too late for France to qualify for Group Five where Yugoslavia and Scotland had already booked their places in the finals in Italy next year.

France finished third on nine points, one behind the Scots.

Platini had urged his team to threaten the match seriously and play for their future places but his youngsters failed to carve out real chances against the packed Cypriot defence.

French goalkeeper Joel Bats, winning his 50th cap, had virtually nothing to do all evening

as the visitors rarely ventured over the halfway line.

The 21-year-old midfielder Deschamps, who looks set to be kingpin of the French team for many years, took advantage of a hasty Cypriot clearance to strike with a superb left-footed volley from 25 metres for the first goal.

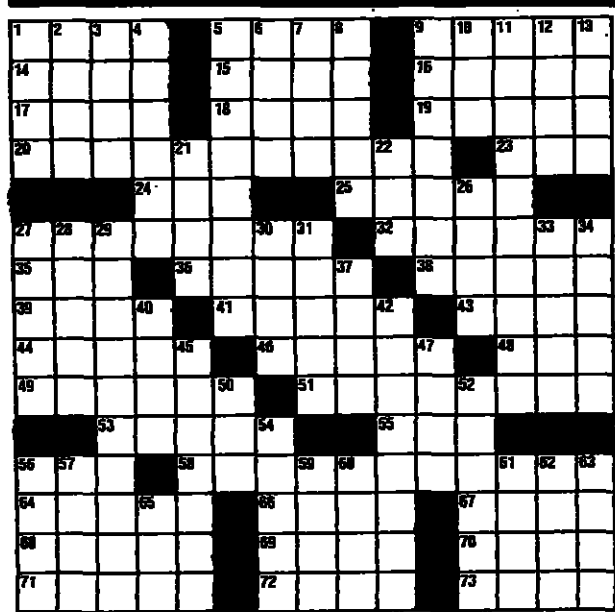
The goal did not persuade the visitors to open up and France continued to run into a wall of defenders whenever they approached the Cyprus penalty area.

It was a goalkeeping mistake by Andreas Charitou which helped France make the score respectable in the 75th minute. Charitou pushed a Manuel Amoros cross straight to Blanc who tapped the ball home.

Blanc wasted two other chances to add to the score and strikes by Jean-Pierre Papin, in nothing like the form he shows for Marseille, had good shot saved by Charitou.

Platini defended his team afterwards. "We played well," he said. "It's difficult to play against teams like this. It was a great physical effort."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Small delicacies
 - Dull, explosive sound
 - Baked —
 - Of the ear
 - Expect
 - Winter weather word
 - Yemen capital
 - Persia, now
 - Coffee accompaniment
 - Seafood on the half shell
 - Bee follower
 - Type of payment: Abbr.
 - Soil
 - Shrewd manner
 - Simple Simon met him
 - Bobby of hockey
 - Porky's feature
 - Amphitheater
 - Streets, in Strasbourg
 - food cake
 - Mid-11th cen. date: Roman
 - Poplar
 - Strong winds
 - Puppeteer Baird
 - See 5 Down
 - New productions of old plays
 - Shatter
 - Cure lead-in
 - Camel's hair fabric
 - Greens for the general?
 - mignon
 - Vincent Lopez's theme
 - Jordan's queen
 - of Two Cities
 - Steep, rugged rock
- DOWN**
- Accomplished
 - Decorated again
 - Cornflour
 - Baked —
 - Large pear
 - Romance lang.
 - A Turner
 - Shrimp, on a tratorie menu
 - With 49 Across, a regal dish
 - Circle dance
 - Poisonous sap tree
 - Supernatural spirit
 - NW Oregon
 - Arafat's org.
 - Dessert named for an opera star
 - majesty
 - Kitchen follower
 - Wrongdoings
 - Be off guard
 - Duration
 - Reef composition
 - West Indies island
 - Relative of
 - 58 Across
 - Best product
 - Blacksmith's device
 - Tool chest items
 - Gram or graph beginning
 - Slender
 - 40 Power to influence
 - Made lawful
 - Tastes
 - 50 Brownies' org.
 - Articles of food
 - Therefore
 - 56 A long way off
 - Snack
 - Short-billed bird
 - "What a pity!"
 - Burglar's booty
 - 62 Tops
 - Attracted
 - Inventor
 - Whitney

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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AERIE LEVI ONCE
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PLAN PEER LENDS
SONG PELTS
CAMP'S RELIC
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BATIK COAT
GEORL CARL ILSE
AGRA ROLEMODELS
ROTI OLLA RESIN
STAR BOYD TASTE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
PLAY THE ODDS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ K 10 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ Q J 10 8

WEST EAST
♠ Q 8 6 5 2 ♠ 7 3
♥ Void ♥ J 10 9 6 5 4 2
♦ J 10 9 8 4 3 ♦ 6
♣ K 3 ♣ 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 9
♥ A Q 7
♦ A K 5
♣ A 9 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
Some people dread a two-way finesse, claiming they always go wrong. The expert loves it, because by the time he commits himself it is no longer a pure guess!

South's sequence showed a balanced hand of 23-24 points—he added a point for all four aces. After an initial waiting response with a good hand, North bid its full value as soon as he learned what partner held.

Declarer won the opening lead in

dummy and, since he could count 12 tricks if the king of clubs were on-side, immediately ran the queen of clubs. West took the king and persevered with diamonds. Now declarer's 12th trick would have to come from spades, and there are those who would peer at the heavens for inspiration before closing their eyes and taking the finesse one way or the other.

If the odds held true, exactly half of them would guess right. The other 50 percent would blame their horoscopes for being out of kilter.

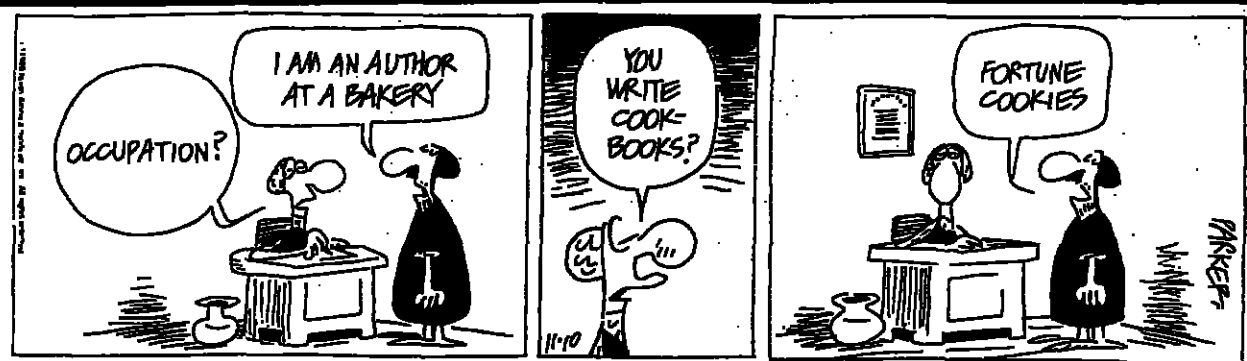
The expert sets out to learn as much as possible about the hand. Declarer cashes out all the winners in the three non-vital suits. In the process South learns that West started with six diamonds, two clubs and no hearts. Therefore, West has five spades and East only two. The odds have increased dramatically from 50 percent—West suddenly has become a 5-to-2 favorite to hold the queen.

So declarer leads a spade to the ten and, when that holds, he claims his slam. Declarer has simply heeded two key principles: Do not commit yourself to a line earlier than necessary; and count the enemy distribution to find a clue about how to tackle the crucial suit.

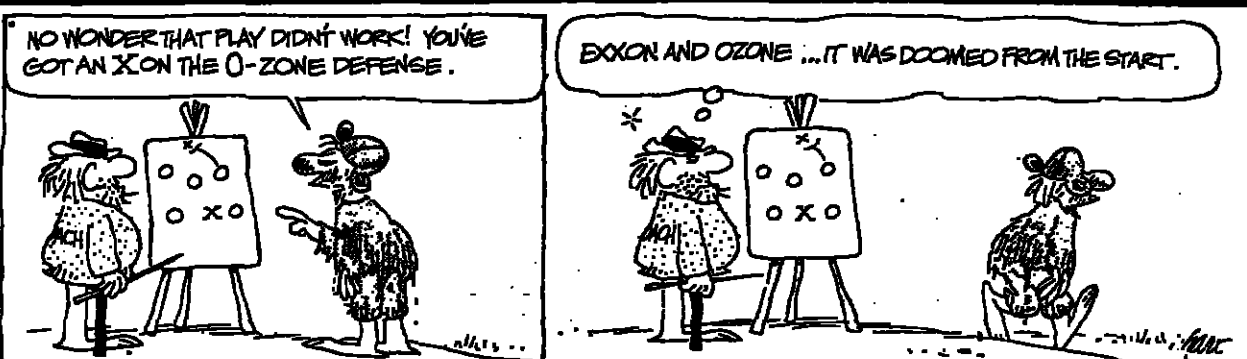


"His doctor told him to cut out sugar."

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will know just what to do in the circumstances. Show a little more initiative but do not act on impulse. Try not to do rely too much on lucky chance. Be observant.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have some doubts. Never mind, there is room for and you will know how to deal with them. Take one thing at a time. Be less cantankerous.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should not base your judgments on assumptions or conjecture. You will not be able to do exactly what you would wish to do. Make sure you do not eat more than you know you ought. Be reasonable.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Something you have long been trying to learn will at long last fall into place. You should not live too much in the past, the present and future are what counts. Do not expect too much from others. Be realistic.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will have some good ideas but they may not all be practicable. You should avoid being mean but nor should you spend extravagantly. Take things less as they come but do not fight against what has to be. Be credible.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Make sure you do not do anything on the spur of the moment. There is no point in being bitter about a wrong that has been done to you. Look on the bright side. Be on your guard.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

Something you have long been trying to learn will at long last fall into place. You should not live too much in the past, the present and future are what counts. Do not expect too much from others. Be realistic.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should not expect others to do just what you would like them to do. Make sure you do not exceed any limits, not only those of speed. And be sure you do not starve yourself in the process of losing weight.



S

SPORTS

Falah set for Desert Challenge

BP/Alghamir 2000 Trophy, the round of the 1989 Marboor Challenge takes place in the desert (Nov. 23-24). It is in Ed Falah, the local Marboor Mitsubishi team driver who is expected to provide the biggest challenge to the leading visiting driver, Qatar's Abbas Al Mousawi. Other contenders include Khalid Alhadi, a Saudi, and the current holder of the BP/Alghamir title, Falah, who recently joined the Marboor team. Falah is in top form, having won each of his domestic championship rallies in the Marboor series, including the current BP/Alghamir title. Falah, who has won the Kuwait International Rally, earlier this year, has been the only driver to win the Marboor Rally in Kuwait's only international rally. His former coach, Khalid Alhadi, one of the most experienced on-drivers, will be a key factor in his performance. Together Ed and Khalid look set to become a significant force on the Middle East rally circuit. Qatar's Abbas Al Mousawi, who is partnered by Dubai's Mohammed Fattah, has already won the 1989 Marboor Desert Challenge, piloting a Mitsubishi Pajero, with victories in Oman, Jordan, and Qatar, but is content on leaving Kuwait with a further victory to his credit.

The tough conflict is expected to come between Saudi Arabia's Mamdouh Khayat and Dubai-based Lebanese pilot Michel Saleh, for second overall position in the 1989 Marboor Desert Challenge. At the same time, the standard classification title will remain unsettled until the conclusion of the BP/Alghamir Rally, in which South Arabia's Mohammed Alhadi and Qatar's Jaber Al Marni, currently sharing the same points, will fight it out for first standard classification, for which first prize money was won at a Finnish Rally in 1988. Al Marni pilots a Peugeot 504, while Saleh, partnered by Bahrain's Jaber Alhadi, will start in a V6 Mitsubishi Pajero.

The BP/Alghamir - Marboor Rally started at 8.30 am by Ed Falah, Jaber Mubarak Alhadi, and Jaber Alhadi from the Kuwait International Hotel on Friday. On Thursday, a prelude will have taken place to decide the rally starting order of the participating crews.

Meanwhile, a new-look Emirates Desert Rally will provide a further challenge to the 1989 Fina Middle East Championship on November 30 and December 1.

Showed for the first time by the event, it starts again from the Dubai Hyatt Regency Hotel but will finish in the desert before heading back to the city. The rally, which is shorter, more compact, and more challenging than the standard classification title, will be a key factor in the overall standings of the Middle East series, the rally is expected to be faster and more competitive than ever.

The organizing Al Nasr Motor sports Club has moved most of the tough special stages which have proved to be real car-breakers in recent years. Others stages have been shortened, and some will be run in the opposite direction to previous years. A meeting start on both days means there are no overnight stages. The second leg has been diverted away from the Jebel Ali sand flats. Overall, the route, at 867-km, is 70-km shorter than last year.

World's most successful doubles duo splits

Graf, Navratilova reach final

NEW YORK, Nov 19, (Reuters): Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova, the world's top two players, will finally face off in the final of the \$1 million, season-ending Women's Tennis Championships after posting victories in the semifinals yesterday.

Top seed Graf cruised through an anti-climactic third set to

down defending champion Gabriela Sabatini 6-3 5-7 6-1. Earlier, Navratilova, who has not won a Grand Slam event in two years, crushed French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez 6-2 6-2 in 56 minutes to earn another shot at Graf, winner of the Australian, Wimbledon and US Championships.

"I was ready for her," Navratilova said of Sanchez, the fourth seed. "I was going to go all out and take no prisoners."

Today's final will be best-of-five sets. Navratilova leads their personal series seven to six, but Graf has won their last three meetings.

Navratilova, a five-time champion here, has lost only twice since April - both times to Graf, at the Wimbledon and US Open finals.

Graf, winner here in 1987, took the first set with a single service break in the sixth game and appeared on her way to a relatively easy win after holding the last game at love and breaking Sabatini at love in the first game of the second set.

But Sabatini, the only player to beat Graf in both 1988 and 1989, broke right back and the Madison Square Garden crowd of nearly 18,000, clearly behind the Argentine, came to life.

The second set, filled with long rallies, provided some of the most exciting tennis of the week as Sabatini worked her topspin magic and displayed a confident and effective net game.

The usually unflappable Graf was visibly rattled as fans shouted line calls during points and cheered whenever the West German made a mistake, even on first serve faults.

Sabatini appeared to be cheated out of the second set by a questionable line call at 5-4, but made up for it two games later by blasting a forehand service return winner to win the set.

The third set, however, was all Graf. The West German won six straight games after Sabatini held for 1-0.

"Maybe it should have been two (sets) but I'm just happy to win," said Graf, who extended her 1989 match record to 82-2.

The third-seeded Sabatini offered her usual excuse for folding to Graf. "I still have to improve a little mentally. In the third set I was not strong enough," she said.

Navratilova had some trouble with her first serve early on but she volleyed brilliantly against the 17-year-old Spaniard.

After a sluggish start that allowed Sanchez to take a 2-0 lead, Navratilova revived her attacking game and reeled off nine straight games to lead 6-2 3-0.

"Once I woke up and settled down I was putting the ball where she couldn't get it," Navratilova said.

Navratilova, who let a huge lead slip away in her quarterfinal against 15-year-old Yugoslav Monica Seles, kept up the pressure and broke Sanchez at love for 6-2.

Ironically, Navratilova and Graf 30th came into the tournament complaining of injuries.

But Navratilova has shown no ill effects of a groin pull suffered last week in Chicago and Graf is continually surprised by her ability to play on a badly twisted left ankle.

"I don't know how I'm still playing," said Graf. "To be in the final is a miracle to me."

Navratilova and Pam Shriver ended their nine-year partnership in a blaze of glory yesterday as they defeated the Soviet team of Larisa Savchenko and Natalia Zvereva 6-3 6-2 in the doubles final.

"Pam and I are not playing

together next year," Navratilova said as she accepted the team's \$45,000 first prize check. As if to inject some suspense, she then added: "But we might play together the next year. So, it's not over."

For the present, at least, the most successful doubles duo in history are calling it quits - though neither has announced a choice for a new doubles partner.

Playing together, they have collected 20 Grand Slam titles, posted a 109-match winning streak from June 1983 to July 1985, and claimed six year-end championship crowns. They have also pocketed nearly \$2 million in doubles prizes.

The team, which won this year's Australian Open, announced this summer they would not continue in 1990. Although they did not play together at the 1989 US Open, they teamed up two weeks ago at an event in New England ahead of this season-end championship.

At the New England event, which Navratilova-Shriver won, Navratilova said she suggested the split because she thought she needed a break from the partnership and that Shriver, who has struggled in singles, needed a respite from tennis.

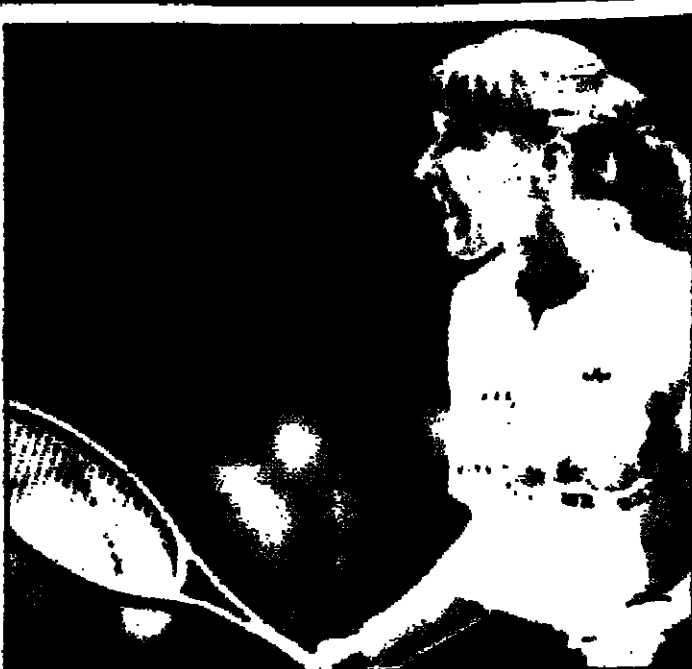
Nevertheless, yesterday's performance suggested anything but a tired, over-familiar relationship as the two moved in unison and with ease about the court.

"Nine years and one month ago someone named Martina called me and asked me to play doubles," said Shriver, smiling at the bitter-sweet moment of victory. "It was only 18 years old, but it was like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

"I don't know how I'm still playing," said Graf. "To be in the final is a miracle to me."

Navratilova and Pam Shriver ended their nine-year partnership in a blaze of glory yesterday as they defeated the Soviet team of Larisa Savchenko and Natalia Zvereva 6-3 6-2 in the doubles final.

"Pam and I are not playing



Graf argues a call during her match against Sabatini. (Reuters wirephoto)

Otto quits swimming

EAST BERLIN, Nov 19, (Reuters): East German Kristin Otto, one of the most successful swimmers of all time, has retired, the youth newspaper Junge Welt reported yesterday.

Otto, 23, who won six gold medals at the 1988 Olympics, and seven world and eight European championship titles, told Junge Welt in an interview that her decision was final.

"I felt at the European Championships in Bonn (last August) that I had reached the limits of my capabilities," Otto said.

"So I said to myself 'You've come to the end.' To say that took a lot of courage because I enjoy competitive sports," said Otto, who is training to be a journalist with a radio station in her native Leipzig.

Otto, who won her first world title as a 16-year-old in 1982, had considered retirement after the Seoul Olympics, where she was the most prolific women's title winner at a single Games, and took a long break from serious swimming.

Junge Welt reported on Friday that Otto was afraid to go out in public because of threats made towards her and other sporting stars.

East Germany's sporting elite is widely believed to be greatly privileged, with access to hard currency, performance bonuses, Western goods and foreign travel - something most other East

Germans have had only for the past week.

Otto said she had nothing to hide from critics of her allegedly privileged lifestyle.

"Just because I have a Peugeot, which I brought for myself from rewards for my victories and because I now occupy a three-room flat," Otto retorted in answer to a question from Junge Welt.



Kristin Otto

Australia win team golf crown

MARBELLA, Spain, Nov 19, (Reuters): Australia were declared winners of the World Cup team golf championship today when play on the final day was abandoned because of heavy rain.

The tournament was declared completed as a 36-hole event with Wayne Grady and Peter Fowler giving Australia their fourth Cup triumph.

They led Spaniards Jose-Marie Olazabal and Jose-Maria Canizales by three shots after the rain-delayed second round was completed yesterday.

The Australians each won \$120,000. The Spanish pair took \$60,000 apiece.

Australia's previous victories were in 1954, 1959 and 1970.

Fowler also won another \$50,000 as the leading individual among the 32 nations taking part. He had rounds of 66 and 71 over the Las Brisas course for a seven-under-par total of 137.

Tournament director Tony Roosenburg said rain began just as he arrived at the course at 5.30 am local time (0430 GMT) today, "after being dry all night."

"I never let up. Even if it stopped now it

would take us two hours to get the course into any kind of playable shape.

Then we would not have time to finish the round anyway," he said.

Bad weather has affected this event all week, from the time players began their journeys to here. Some took nearly four days to arrive after delays in London and at the nearest Spanish airport to here at Malaga.

Then the pro-am on Wednesday was cancelled and the second round on Friday was postponed until yesterday after torrential downpours.

The event originated in 1953 as a 36-hole tournament called the Canada Cup and was expanded to 72 holes the following year. In 1967 it was renamed the World Cup.

Rain has forced a shortening of the tournament to 54 holes on two previous occasions, in 1985, but this is the first time that only 36 holes have been played.

In Tokyo, American Larry Mize, the 1987 US Masters champion, birdied the final two holes today to score a four-stroke victory in the 160-million-yen (\$1.1-million) Phoenix tournament, Japan's richest golf event.

Mize, playing steady golf throughout, bat-

tered strong winds to post the day's best card of four-under-par 68, equalling the tournament record total of 16-under-par 272 set by compatriot Hubert Green and Graham Marsh.

In Sydney, Australian Rodger Davis, sidelined for much of the year by a back injury, scored a magnificent 15 under par to win the \$300,000 New South Wales Golf Open today by a comfortable nine strokes.

Davis had demonstrated his return to form throughout the four-day tournament at the Lakes course and breezed home on the final day with a three under 70 for a four-round total of 277.

And in Thousand Oaks, Curtis Strange and Mark O'Meara picked up where they left off to stretch their lead to seven strokes yesterday after two rounds of the million-dollar Invitational Team Golf Tournament.

Strange and O'Meara, who held a four-shot lead after the alternate ball round of the 10-team event, combined to fire a 10-under-par 62 in the round of best-ball to pad their lead going into today's final round.

Ray Floyd and Chip Beck, who shot par in the opening round, climbed into second place at 135 after posting a 63.

Washington Redskins defensive end Dexter Manley yesterday was banned permanently from playing in the National Football League (NFL) after testing positive a third time for substance abuse.

Manley, 30, a fixture on the defensive line for the Redskins since joining the team in 1981 as a fifth-round draft choice, met with NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue for some 90 minutes on Friday before the league decided on its action.

Manley is eligible to apply for reinstatement in one year.

Only two other NFL players have been banned permanently - Cincinnati Bengals running back Stanley Wilson in and New England Patriots running back Tony Collins.

In 1987, Manley submitted to treatment for drug abuse at the Hazelden Foundation in Minnesota. He then tested positive for cocaine in July 1988 and was suspended for 30 days, in compliance with the league's drug policy.

Chavez stops Fuentes

AS VEGAS, Nov 19, (Reuters): Angedated Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico retained his World Boxing Council super lightweight championship yesterday by stopping a tough but outclassed Sammy Fuentes of Puerto Rico when the bout was halted between the 10th and 11th rounds.

Chavez controlled the fight from the second round and battered Fuentes in the final five rounds. Chavez landed the lead at will the last two rounds, prompting ring physician Dr. Filip Homansky to stop the bout.

"He had no arguments," said Homansky about Fuentes's decision to the stoppage. The challenger's right eye was closed in the two rounds and he bled from the nose.

The Mexican's victory set the stage for a unification bout against his International Boxing Federation counterpart, American Meldrick Taylor, in Las Vegas on March 17.

Chavez started getting hit too

much," Fuentes said. "It seemed no matter what I did he was better than me. I tried every trick I knew and he kept coming forward."

Chavez, who has moved up in weight, was not completely satisfied. "I'm pleased but I should have been stronger," he said. "I'm pleased but I should have been stronger," he said. "I'm not used to this weight yet. That's why I'm taking another fight next month to be ready for Taylor."

The Mexican has scheduled a non-title fight on December 16 in Mexico City against lightly regarded Alberto Cortez before meeting Taylor.

Chavez, 27, and his multi-million-dollar bout with Taylor never were in jeopardy yesterday.

By round three, Chavez, who has held world titles in three weight divisions, was landing his complete arsenal of double left hooks, right and left uppercuts and right leads.

Martin stuns Jansher

HOUSTON, Texas, Nov 19, (Reuters): Second seed Rodney Martin of Australia upset world champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan yesterday in the final of the US Open squash championship.

Martin, who lost to Jansher in the semifinals of last week's Canadian Open, turned the tables on the top-seeded Pakistani by taking a 15-9 15-12 12-15 victory for the US crown.

"He (Jansher) wants to know where the ball's going all the time so he uses his speed to get the ball back," Martin said. "But he'll set you up enough and if you're good enough and hit the ball low enough, you can beat him."

"There's not a player on the circuit who can get every ball back," added Martin, who squandered a chance to beat Jansher in the Canadian Open after taking a 2-0 lead in games.

For a while it looked as if Martin would not make it through the final as a recurring back injury caused him to stiffen up in the middle of the second game.

But in the third game, which was the best of the match, Martin appeared to loosen up as he clung to a one to two-point lead throughout most of the 20-minute game.

The turning point came when Martin jumped high to volley a lob into the nick for a 12-10 lead. The lead quickly grew to four points as Martin was awarded a penalty stroke and Jansher followed with his seventh unforced error of the game.

His victory was Martin's second of the Grand Prix season following his February triumph at the Finnish Open.

"I made too many mistakes in the third game and Rodney hit too many shots," Jansher said.



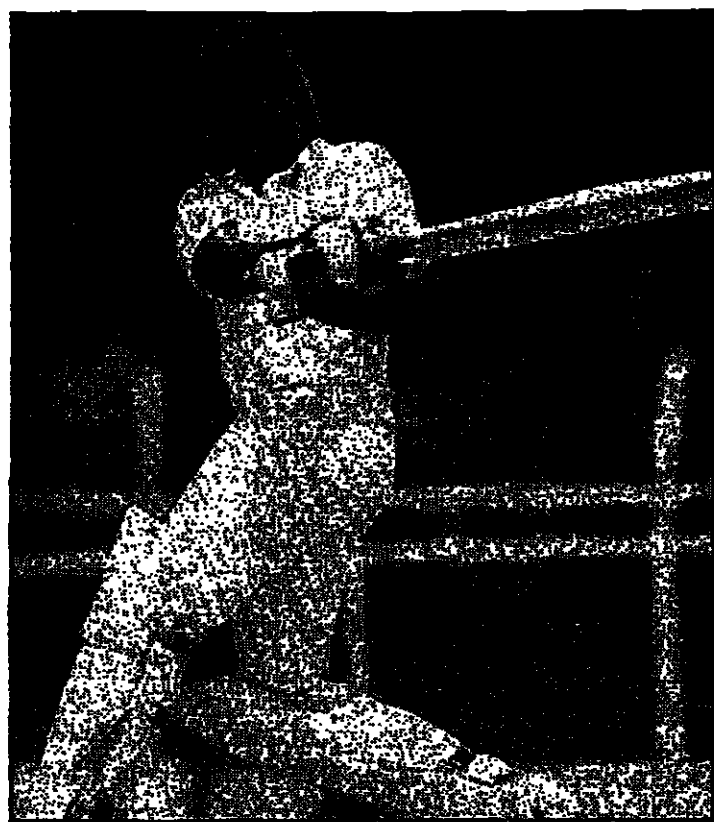
Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS

Srikkanth & Co. take advantage of depleted Pakistani attack

Salim hammers India for ton



Salim: 3rd Test hundred against India

KARACHI, Pakistan, Nov 19. (Reuters): Salim Malik hit his seventh Test century to tighten Pakistan's grip on the first Test against India but the visitors fought back in their second innings as they tried hard to avoid defeat.

Salim's unbeaten 102, his third Test hundred against India, allowed Imran Khan to declare Pakistan's second innings at 305 for five at tea on the fourth day.

India need a daunting 453 to win with four sessions left to play.

Earlier Shoaib Mohammad, who batted for more than six hours, left the crease in tears after being adjudged lbw to paceman Kapil Dev for 95.

Kapil Dev, playing his 100th Test, was again the most impressive of the Indian bowlers, taking three for 82 to add to his first innings haul of four for 69.

India started the day encouragingly by removing wicketkeeper and nightwatchman Salim Yousuf in the fifth over. Pace bowling Test debutant Salil Ankola made breakthrough after Yousuf had added only one run to his over-night three.

Salim and Shoaib, however, were the architects of getting the lead of over 400 which their captain Imran Khan said on the rest day was his objective.

Shoaib, who hit nine fours, is enjoying a superb run of Test form. His only two innings in Pakistan's previous series, in New Zealand earlier this year, each produced a century.

India took advantage of a depleted Pakistani attack to give themselves a good chance of saving the Test.

The Indians, needing 453 to win, were 86 for one at the close of the fourth day.

India's batsmen were helped by the withdrawal from the bowling lineup of Waqar Younis, who was suffering from a strained back.

The young paceman, playing in his first Test, took four for 80 in India's first innings 262 and in his absence Imran Khan took the new ball.

But Imran was far from his best and with Wasim Akram accurate but rarely threatening, the Indian batsmen looked relatively comfortable.

Skipper Krishnamachari Srikkanth cracked five fours in a whirlwind innings of 31 from just

45 balls before he was controversially given out lbw by English umpire John Hampshire.

Srikkanth made it plain that he thought he had played the ball on to his pad.

After his dismissal, Navjot Sidhu and Sanjay Manjrekar steadied the innings and at the close Sidhu had scored 34 and Manjrekar was on 14.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 489 (Shoaib Mohammad 87, Javed Miandad 78, Imran Khan 108 not out, Kapil Dev 55, K. More 58 not out)

INDIA first innings 262 (Kapil Dev 69, S. Srikkanth 31, S. Manjrekar 14, S. Salil Ankola 4, S. Salim Malik not out)

PAKISTAN second innings 305 (Imran Khan not out 28, S. Srikkanth 31, S. Manjrekar 14, S. Salil Ankola 4, S. Salim Malik not out)

INDIA second innings 86 (S. Srikkanth 31, S. Manjrekar 14, S. Salil Ankola 4, S. Salim Malik not out)

Fall of wickets: 1-22-24-32-4-109-5-250

Bowling: Kapil Dev 36-15-82-3, Prabhakar 30-10-7-1, Anikola 11-6-35-1, Ayub 10-1-37-0, Shaukat 5-0-15-0, Tendulkar 4-0-15-0

INDIA second innings 86 (S. Srikkanth 31, S. Manjrekar 14, S. Salil Ankola 4, S. Salim Malik not out)

Fall of wickets: 1-43-2-43-3-20-0, Wasim Akram 9-1-30-1, Abdul Qadir 5-0-31-0



Crowe: unbeaten on 115

Crowe hits 50th first class century

ADELAIDE, Australia, Nov 19. (Reuters): Martin Crowe hit his 50th first class century today as New Zealand used the third day of their four-day cricket match against South Australia purely for batting practice.

At the close New Zealand, 89 for one overnight, were 303 for four in reply to South Australia's 459 with Crowe unbeaten on 115.

Crowe, who has now hit four centuries in as many matches on the Adelaide Oval, said he thought South Australian captain David Hughes had killed the game as a contest by batting on after lunch yesterday.

"I personally thought the session after lunch yesterday was a complete and utter waste of time," Crowe said.

"Today I was just trying to make the South Australian bowlers toil as hard as they possibly could."

"As far as we are concerned we just want to bat on regardless of the score."

Crowe's innings was the cornerstone of a solid New Zealand performance as the touring side warmed up for Friday's Test in Perth.

The 27-year-old New Zealander batted for 333 minutes, faced 277 balls and hit 12 boundaries, reaching his century shortly before the close.

"I've said before that it's my favourite ground outside of New Zealand," Crowe said.

"But in the four games I've played here this wicket's probably the hardest to bat on as the ball stays down and makes it hard to time it."

Opener Robert Vance, badly in need of runs, scored a solid 65 and Jeff Crowe was 39 not out after sharing an unbeaten fifth wicket stand of 115 in 199 minutes with his younger brother.

Scoreboard

SOUTH AUSTRALIA first innings 459 (G. Bishop 73, D. Lehmann 80, J. Scuderi 75 not out)

NEW ZEALAND first innings (over-night 89 for one)

R. Vance c Hughes b Alley 65, J. Wright lbw b Alley 23, M. Greatbatch c Berry b Gladigau 36, M. Crowe not out 115

Fall of wickets: 1-57-2-114-3-141-4-188

Bowling (to date): Gladigau 28-7-77-1, Clarke 25-14-31-0, Scuderi 29-15-47-0 (1nb), Alley 20-7-54-2, Sleep 33-10-90-1

In Hobart, Tasmania 262 and 83 for one, Queensland 303 (Jan Healy 81 not out, Dave Gilbert four for 76). In Melbourne, Western Australia 133 and 56 for two, Victoria 297 for eight declared (Jan Fraser 90).

In Sydney, Test wicketkeeper Ian Healy rescued Queensland today with an unbeaten 81 on the third day of their four-day Sheffield Shield cricket match against Tasmania in Hobart.

Healy steered the visitors to 303 in their first innings in the face of some fiery fast bowling by Dave Gilbert, who finished with four for 76.

Tasmania, who trailed by 41 runs on the first innings, were 83 for one in their second innings with Test batsman David Boon 48 not out.

In Melbourne, Shield champions Western Australia were in deep trouble against Victoria at the close of the third day.

Victoria declared their first innings at 297 for eight and at the close Western Australia were 56 for two in their second innings, still needing 108 to make the home side bat again.

Scores

In Hobart: Tasmania 262 and 83 for one, Queensland 303 (Jan Healy 81 not out, Dave Gilbert four for 76). In Melbourne: Western Australia 133 and 56 for two, Victoria 297 for eight declared (Jan Fraser 90).

The final spot in the 24-team final round was being contested later this evening by Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.

Cameroon, the African champions, came out bristling with confidence. The Indomitable Lions had a healthy 2-0 advantage from the first match of the home-and-home series. Cameroon and Tunisia had won their respective groups to advance to this playoff.

It will be the second trip to the World Cup finals for Cameroon. It made the 1982 final round in Spain. Cameroon had three draws in the group play in 1982 but were eliminated on goal differential.

Tunisia took to the field with an offensive mind right from the start, trying to erase the two-goal deficit from the previous match. However the Cameroonian defense, led by goalie Joseph-Antoine Bell, was able to hold them off.

In the 13th minute, a fast counterattack found Omam Biyick in the open and he headed the ball past Tunisian goalie Naceur Chouane.

That score held up the rest of the way, although some errors on defense in the 40th and 77th minute created openings that Tunisia couldn't take advantage of.

As the match neared the end, most of the 45,000 spectators at El Meneah stadium turned silent when they realised that Tunisia's chances of going to Italy were slipping away.

However for the few hundred Cameroon fans who made the trip, there was joy. The lineup:

Tunisia: Naceur Chouane; Taoufik Mhedhebi, Samir Sellimi, Taoufik Hichri, Khalid Ben Yania; Mohamed Ali Mahjoubi, Jamel Liman (Lofti Hsoumi 67th), Nabil Maaloul (Fawzi Rouissi 50th), Fadi Dermeche; Tarek Dhiab, Abdelhamid Herbel. Cameroon: Joseph-Antoine Bell; Stephen Tataw, Jean-Claude Pagel, Emmanuel Kunde, Bertin Ebwelle; Emile Mbouh, Andre Kana, Paul-Louis M'Fede, Eugene Ekeke; Francois Omam-Biyick (Bonaventure Djoukep 60th), Ernest Ebongue (Cyril Mkaneky 70th).

Pistons thrash Celtics

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Nov 19, (AP): Detroit's Dennis Rodman scored five straight points during an 8-2 third-quarter run that helped the Pistons stretch their home-court winning streak to 25 games last night with a 103-86 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Boston cut a 54-39 halftime deficit to 67-62 but Rodman converted an offensive rebound and then made a basket and free throw to give Detroit a 72-62 lead.

Detroit's Joe Dumars was 10-for-14 from the field en route to a 27-point night. Bill Laimbeer had 19 points and 12 rebounds. Larry Bird had 22 points for the Celtics, who hurt themselves with 21 first-half turnovers that Detroit converted into 32 points.

Hawks 112, Warriors 96

Dominique Wilkins scored 29 points, Cliff Levingston 21 and Glenn Rivers 18 to lead Atlanta. Wilkins scored 10 points in the third period, helping the Hawks build an 81-67 lead entering the final quarter.

Levingston, filling in for injured centre Moses Malone, sparked a 12-2 run that gave the Hawks a 102-82 lead with 3:24 left.

The Warriors were led by Chris Mullin's 28 points. Mullin was the Warriors' sole offensive weapon for a stretch in the fourth quarter. He scored eight consecutive points, the last basket pulling Golden State within 88-81 with 6:08 left. But Rivers followed with a field goal that triggered the Hawks' 12-2 run.

Spurs 110, Nets 95

Rookie David Robinson scored 23 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and San Antonio had runs of 17, nine and 10 points.

The Nets trailed 31-29 early in the second period but the Spurs went on a 17-0 run, getting six points from Frank Brickowski and four from Willie Anderson. San Antonio also scored the last nine points of the half for a 63-41 lead.

New Jersey rallied in the third quarter, outscoring the Spurs 35-23 to cut the margin to 85-76. The Spurs countered with a 10-0 run at the beginning of the fourth quarter and scored 16 of the first 18 points in the period, six by Robinson.

Magic 116, 76ers 103

Reggie Theus scored 30 points on 12-of-20 shooting and Terry Catledge added 25 as Orlando ended a five-game losing streak.

Philadelphia's Charles Barkley was ejected for his second foul and the 76ers' fifth technical foul with 32 seconds left in the game.

Results

Atlanta 112 Golden State 96

Detroit 103 Boston 86

San Antonio 110 New Jersey 95

Orlando 116 Philadelphia 103

Dallas 100 Miami 99

New York 111 Minnesota 96

Denver 141 Houston 111

Phoenix 118 Washington 107

Seattle 119 Chicago 110

Sacramento 107 Indiana 102

SPORTS BRIEFS

Players paid

DUBLIN, Nov 19, (Reuters): South African Rugby Union administrator Nick Labuschagne has said he believes overseas players were paid to take part in the republic's centenary celebrations in August. The game's amateur regulations specifically forbid any payments to players.

Boy dies

CAIRO, Nov 19, (Reuters): An eight-year-old boy plunged to his death when he fell off a rooftop while he and his family were celebrating Egypt's victory in a World Cup qualifying soccer match, the daily Al Akhbar said today.

Cuba triumph

TOKYO, Nov 19, (Reuters): Cuba's men, seeking to emulate the World Cup volleyball triumph of their women's team, hit back to maintain their unbeaten record in the eight-nation event in Osaka today. The Cubans beat European champions Italy 15-13 13-15 3-15 15-4 15-13 on the third day for their third win in as many matches.

Soviets win

LUCKNOW, India, Nov 19, (Reuters): Results at the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup women's hockey tournament today.

Soviet Union beat India 2-1 (half-time 0-1).

Superbik title

PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand, Nov 19, (Reuters): American Fred Merkel retained his world superbike title with two third places in difficult conditions in the final round of the series at Manfield today.

Ivy League

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Nov 19, (AP): Tim Perry ran for two touchdowns and passed for another yesterday as Harvard stunned Yale 37-20, spoiling the Elis' hopes for an undisputed Ivy League championship.

Show jumping

TORONTO, Nov 19, (Reuters): Canadian Mac Colne on Pessimist won the Toronto World Cup show jumping event yesterday, the only rider to jump two clear rounds. Colne, competing in the middle of the order in each round, picked up half a time fault as he took his time threading his way through a demanding course packed with big obstacles.

Italian soccer

ROME, Nov 19, (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:

Atalanta 0 Bari 0

Bologna 0 Verona 0

Florentina 1 Ascoli 0

Genoa 2 Cesena 3

Inter 0 AC Milan 3

Lecco 2 Cremonese 1

Napoli 1 Sampdoria 1

Roma 1 Lazio 1

Udinese 2 Juventus 2

English soccer

LONDON, Nov 19, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches today:

English Football Association (FA) Cup first round

Middlesbrough 2 Yeovil 1

Wigan 2 Mansfield 0

Bath 2 Fulham 2

Millwall 1 Liverpool 2

Samarasekera slams NSW

CANBERRA, Nov 19, (Reuters): Opener Athula Samarasekera compiled a determined 133 today, his highest first class score, as Sri Lanka defied the New South Wales bowling on the third day of their four-day cricket match.

At the close Sri Lanka, 17 for no wicket overnight, were 217 for three in their first innings replying to New South Wales' 423 for seven declared.

The match is only Sri Lanka's second first class fixture in 18 months and captain Arjuna Ranatunga was justifiably pleased with his team's performance.

"So far so good," Ranatunga said. "That was a great start to the tour."

It was the highest Sri Lankan partnership for any wicket in Australia.

New South Wales' skipper Geoff Lawson gave his spinners a solid workout but neither off-spinner Peter Taylor or Greg Matthews, nor leg-spinner Mark O'Neill made much impression.

Taylor and Matthews finished with combined figures of one for

"It's very important to us to get in some solid batting practice. We must get used to batting for a long time."

Samarasekera and Dharmika Ranatunga put on 159 for the first wicket before Ranatunga was caught behind off left-arm paceman Mike Whitney for a solid 56.

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Taylor and Matthews finished with combined figures of one for

44 off 36 overs while O'Neill's solitary wicket cost him 66 runs.

Scoreboard

NEW SOUTH WALES first innings 423 (S. Waugh 57, M. Taylor 53, G. Matthews 52 not out)

SRI LANKA first innings (over-night 17 for no wicket)

D. Ranatunga c Emery b Whitney 56, A. Samarasekera c Emery b Matthews 133, A. Gurusinghe c and b O'Neill 8, G. Silva not out 10, G. Wickramasinghe not out 0

Extras (lb-2) 2

Total (three wickets) 217

Fall of wickets: 1-159-2-190-3-208

To bat: A. Ranatunga (captain), Ravi Ramalingam, G. Laabrooy, R. Madurasinghe, S. Jayasinghe, H. Tillekeratne

Bowling to date: Lawson 18-9-26-0, Whitney 16-6-28-1, M. Waugh 1-0-1-0, P. Taylor 15-3-40-0, Matthews 21-6-54-1, O'Neill 20-5-66-1

Kankkunen takes early lead in rally

NOTTINGHAM, England, Nov 19, (Reuters): Finland's Juha Kankkunen made a good start in his bid to win the British Rally for the second time in three years by racing into an early lead on the opening day today.

The 30-year-old Finn, twice world champion, won on stage and was equal fastest on two other special stages to establish a five-second advantage over his Toyota team-mate Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden.

Welsh driver David Llewellyn, out to become the first British winner of the event for 13 years in the absence of the powerful Lancia team who have already clinched this season's World Championship, was in fourth place, two seconds behind Spain's Carlos Sainz.

The 188 starters were to complete three more special spectator stages today before making an overnight stop in Telford.

Leading positions after the opening five stages in Nottingham: 1. Juha Kankkunen/Juha Piironen (Finland) Toyota 14 minutes 33 seconds, 2. Kenneth Eriksson/Sven Farnander (Sweden) Toyota five seconds behind, 3. Carlos Sainz/Luis Moya (Spain) Toyota 14 sec, 4. David Llewellyn/Phil Short (Britain) Toyota 16, 5. Mikael Sundstrom/Juha Repo (Finland) Mazda 25, 6. Pentti Airikkala (Finland) Ronan McNamee (Ireland) Mitsubishi 27, 7. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Bruno Berglund (Sweden) Mitsubishi 33, 8. Timo Salonen/Veikko Salonen (Finland) Mazda 37, 9. Per Eklund/Bjorn Cederberg (Sweden) Lancia 43, 10. Armin Schwarz/Klaus Wicha (West Germany) Audi 46.

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